

The Friend of Brother André



WINTER 2022-2023

SHARING AND SUPPORT WANTED

As Christmas approaches, the value of sharing takes on a special meaning. We let our hearts speak in the hope that everyone will experience joy and peace... and perhaps, a good meal.

Every year, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal participates in the great collective food drive that takes place in December, calling on the generosity of its pilgrims!

Are you coming to participate in the Mass? Attend a concert? Visit the exhibition of crèches? Don't leave the house empty-handed! The next time you come to the Oratory, you are all invited to bring food products to fill the large boxes placed in various locations on the site.

The food collected will be given in priority to organizations in the Côte-des-Neiges neighbourhood for the preparation of Christmas baskets.

Through your food donations, individuals and families in need will be able to celebrate (Note that household products, hygiene products and baby diapers are also accepted).

Yes, grocery shopping is getting more and more expensive. So sharing is increasingly necessary.

Your generosity can make a difference. Let's be in solidarity!



On behalf of the staff of Saint Joseph's Oratory, Margarita and Jimmy along with Father Antoine, CSC, Vice Rector of Pastoral Ministry, invite the pilgrims to be generous. – Photo: Sm'art

Partner in social change

Another way for Saint Joseph's Oratory to be a partner for change in its community is to support social integration organizations. In March 2022, the catering service Cuisine-Atout was hired to prepare the meal for the Grand Associates meeting.

Cuisine-Atout is a socio-professional integration enterprise that allows adults to follow a training program combined with a job experience in food service. The students include newcomers, social assistance recipients, men and women looking for a solution. Over the past 30 years, the organization has helped launch cook apprentices, counter attendants and service clerks into the job market.

During the recent pandemic and establishment closures, Cuisine-Atout collaborated with emergency services dedicated to the homeless by providing three meals a day, or up to 750 meals daily, 7 days a week.

At Cuisine-Atout, concern for others and attention to the most vulnerable are values that taste good!



THE GIFT OF THE HEART

At this time of year, we begin a time of reflection, preparation and celebration — the onset of colder days and fewer hours of sunlight that nature brings, the beautiful season of Advent that invites us to prepare, the celebration of Christmas and the joy that can bring! For many of us, this is how we will spend these days! At the same time, we know that these days are not easy for everyone, and in fact quite difficult for many.

Let us make this time of Advent and Christmas, be one when we can discover that the great gift that we can be this year is **a gift for others!** It cannot be purchased at the shopping mall or on the internet — it can only come from our heart! To be a gift for others is to share your genuine self with those around you, those in need — both near and far.

As God has given us each the greatest gift in the life and mission of Christ, we, too, have an opportunity to give what we have received as a *gift for others!* Share your warmth! Your time! A meal! Some music! Your presence! Your humour! Your care for the poor, the sick or the homebound! May sharing, solidarity and generosity fuel your heart and guide your actions! Each of us can find a way to be a *gift for others.* It costs us nothing — and gives us everything!

Each candle we light on the Advent wreath inspires us to continue to be a light in the darkness of a world that often does not see the poor, the lonely, or the forgotten of our society. As we share this light and trying to be the best *gift for others* — may our world be a bit better and that more and more people realize what the true gifts of this season are when we welcome the Infant Jesus.

May Saint Brother André and Saint Joseph bless each of you and your loved ones during these months of sharing and celebration!

Peace and Blessings to each of you!

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

A mother's trust

In the footsteps of Alphonse

Fabiola decided to write to Brother André to entrust him with her son Alphonse who was suffering from a form of paralysis. At the age when children start running around, her little boy could only move about with the help of crutches.



Fabiola and Joseph Barbe

It wasn't long before a reply from Montréal arrived in Fabre. "We will pray for him at the Oratory," and the mother was asked to do the same at the indicated

time. With faith, she knelt next to her child and, holding her rosary, she prayed. And then, with a trusting heart, Fabiola returned to her daily tasks.

"Mom, I'm walking!" called out Alphonse to his mother, who rushed to see what was happening. Was it possible? Could her prayers have been answered? Her child was standing; he started walking, at first hesitantly and then confidently.

When he became an adolescent, Alphonse's steps evolved toward step dancing, at which he became very good. He passed on his joyful leisure activity to his own son, whom he had named André! "Our mother loved to see people dance, especially my brother Alphonse and André," said Gérard Barbe, who shared these memories with us in homage to Brother André and his mother's faith.

She herself remained forever grateful to Brother André and Saint Joseph's Oratory. Each time she made a trip to Montréal, she visited the Oratory to pray at the tomb and heart of Brother André. "I had good parents, Fabiola and Joseph. I'm certain they're with God now," said Gérard.

Like his parents, Gérard is very attached to the work of Brother André. He takes an interest in the sanctuary's activities and development, which he is happy to support by donating what he can.

And you? Have you thought about how you can support the Oratory?

INSTALLATION OF A SCULPTURE AS A TRIBUTE TO MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

“Be welcoming to strangers ...”

“Be welcoming to strangers, many have entertained angels unawares.” – Hebrews 13:2. This Bible passage inspired Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz to create “Angels Unawares,” a copy of which is on loan to Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal for the coming year.

This bronze sculpture composed of many faces “depicts migrants and refugees from all cultural and racial backgrounds and from all historic periods of time together — shoulder to shoulder on a raft or boat,” according to the official Internet site created at the time the work was unveiled in Saint Peter’s Square, in Rome, in September 2019, for the 105th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

A call for openness and hospitality

“Within this diverse crowd of people, angel wings are visible in the center, suggesting that within the migrant and refugee is the sacred.” The work shows how, throughout human history, migrants and refugees have brought to others the sacred and the presence of God. They have sometimes done so without even knowing; without seeking glory; like



The staff of Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal actively welcomes the arrival and prepares the sculpture for installation. – Photo: Ellen Morin

discreet angels. The work is a call for hospitality and more broadly for an “evangelical welcome,” as pointed out by Pope Francis in 2020. As an international crossroads, Saint Joseph’s Oratory is a significant place of welcome for many people when they arrive in the country.

The imposing bronze sculpture, weighing 3.5 tons and measuring 20 feet long and 12 feet high, is installed on the terrace and is accessible from the Concourse. It’s not insignificant that the sculpture was installed at this spot where visitors can also see the stained-glass windows depicting the Holy Family travelling, having been forced to flee to Egypt.

Artist of the divine

The sculptor, Timothy P. Schmalz, is an Ontario artist whose works can be admired in many countries. Several of his sculptures depict the sacred, and he himself describes his works as “visual prayers.” One of his most famous creations, “Homeless Jesus,” shows Christ as a vagrant sleeping on a bench. Schmalz has also created two statues of Saint Brother André—one in 2012 for the Saint André Bessette Catholic Secondary School in London, Ontario, and another installed in 2019 in front of St. Clare Chapel in Aiken, South Carolina. Speaking works with a language of humanity.

CENTURY-OLD BENCHES RESTORED

During the summer, visitors were able to enjoy comfortable stops at the Brother André monument. The century-old outdoor benches were restored with ingenuity and skill. The worn-out wooden boards have been replaced by new white pine slats fashioned by the carpenter Francis Miville. The cast steel feet engraved with “OSJ” have been sandblasted and repainted black by the painter Christian Beauchemin. Along the path leading to the statue of “Saint Joseph, the Worker,” new benches made from Douglas fir have been added. They were designed by the carpenter Jean Laberge, using a beam recuperated from the former Pilgrims Service Centre.

Brilliant ideas and successful achievements!



Photo: Nathalie Dumas

Tribute to Kenneth Gilbert*

Music by Bach, Scarlatti and Couperin
 With Luc Beauséjour, Hank Knox,
 Josée April and Catherine Todorovski
 Françoise Davoine, host

Sunday, November 20, 3:30 p.m., Basilica
 Free admission – Voluntary contribution

Bach and Pachelbel: An Imaginary Encounter*

Vincent Boucher, organ
 La Schola Choir of
 Saint Joseph's Oratory
 Adam Wills Begley, conductor
 Françoise Davoine, host

Sunday, December 4, 3:30 p.m., Basilica
 Free admission – Voluntary contribution

**Presented in partnership with the
 Festival Bach Montréal*



Artwork by Keena Karonhia Wahta
 Photo: Philippe Renaud/Henris

The Museum Collection

– The Crèches of Saint Joseph's
 Oratory of Mount Royal

Contemplate more than 125 works
 that bear witness to the creativity of
 artists who have shaped their vision
 of the Nativity of the Lord.

Open daily, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. [\$]
 (Ticketing closes at 4 p.m.)



Photo: PCMR

Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal offer LE CHANT EN CADEAU! (Singing as a gift!)

The program proposed for
 this festive moment will cross
 the centuries to make you
 hear traditional songs
 from here and abroad.

Get your vocal chops up!
 The conductor and musical director,
 Andrew Gray, will invite you to
 sing along with the choir.

Sunday, December 11
 3:30 p.m., Basilica
 Free admission – Voluntary contribution

Handel's Messiah

Orchestre classique de Montréal
 Hélène Brunet, soprano
 Rose Naggar-Tremblay, mezzo-soprano
 Zach Rioux, tenor
 Phillip Addis, baritone
 Simon Rivard, conductor

Choirs: the Filles de l'île
 and the Chantres Musiciens

Tuesday, December 13, 7:30 p.m.
 Crypt Church – Tickets [\$]: orchestre.ca

Christmas Concert

The traditional songs that everyone
 loves to hear and hum are mixed with
 old French hymns and Christmas
 carols from different countries.

Rose Naggar-Tremblay, contralto
 Hugo Laporte, baritone
 Ensemble Cochléa
 Ensemble Clavecin en concert
 Luc Beauséjour, conductor

Friday, December 16
 7:30 p.m., Crypt Church
 Tickets [\$]: clavecinenconcert.com

Christmas and New Year's Masses

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 about our activities and the
 schedule of celebrations.

www.saint-joseph.org

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*Liturgical
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