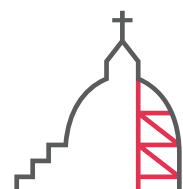


# The Friend of Brother André



REACHING  
NEW HEIGHTS



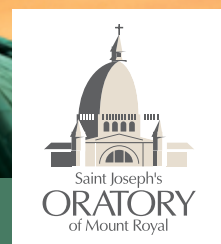
WINTER 2019

Help us  
move heaven  
and earth

Be part of our history  
with the future  
360° Observatory



Give to [oratory360.com](http://oratory360.com)





## THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT

Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is the outcome of a public enthusiasm that has never waned throughout the years. From the early stages of its construction, Brother André encouraged the Oratory's pilgrims to support this project, which began with very limited funds. His loyal friends eagerly rose to the challenge. It was thanks to these benefactors' remarkable generosity that the project was able to move forward!

But in 1931, the impacts of the Great Depression began to take their toll. The coffers were empty. And yet the desire to continue with building the Basilica never wavered. In June of that year, the rector made an urgent appeal: "If everyone were to share whatever little extra they might have, the project would soon be completed and new blessings would spread across our nation." The December issue of the French *Annals of Saint Joseph* included an encouraging message: "Thanks to the donations received, and in anticipation of those to come in soon, this year we have been able to set out to work as never before." Noting that the Oratory is God's work, the message went on: "Alms are the oil without which the wheels of construction cannot be set in motion."

Benefactors were encouraged to purchase a stone for the Basilica as a way of encouraging donations. "Who cannot afford a stone? They come in all sizes and costs, from just a few dollars up to hundreds of dollars." Every donor received a certificate indicating "their" stone's location.

Our *Reaching New Heights* fundraising campaign is based on this beautiful tradition of generosity. Thanks to your support, we are proud that Saint Joseph's Oratory can continue to develop and adapt to the needs of today's visitors. Thank you a million times over!

Father Claude Grou, CSC  
Rector

## Under a copper roof

In 1941, the dome of the Basilica, the four turret roofs, as well as the roofs over the nave, the transepts and the aisles, were covered with sheets of copper. That year's November issue of the *Annals of Saint Joseph* reported: "With the amount of copper used, we could have made a ribbon the width of two fingers that was long enough to circle the Earth." Hardly a trifling amount! To help finance the purchase of the material, the Oratory solicited the public's support in the amount of \$50,000.



"Every square foot of copper will have its owner. We are leaving it up to you to put a roof over the dome," reported the *Annals*. For every square foot of copper purchased at a cost of one dollar, a small plaque cut from the copper's trimmings was to be sent to the donor as a keepsake. Each plaque bears the year (1941) and features an image of the Oratory's dome. After being exposed to the wind and the elements, the original copper roofing had to be replaced; the work took place from 2005 to 2010.



## The Oratory's donation boxes

These were found in a number of businesses and public areas throughout Montréal, Joliette, Saint-Jérôme and Valleyfield, and perhaps even in your local convenience store.

For more than 70 years, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal's donation boxes collected a considerable amount of loose change! Placed next to the cash registers, the boxes urged customers to drop in a few coins to benefit the Oratory. This method of soliciting funds helped pay for the construction of the Basilica, which spanned four decades. And even after the construction was finished, the money boxes continued to raise funds to support Brother André's work. The older boxes made of metal and their wooden stands bore the inscription, "To Saint Joseph for his Basilica." The more recent boxes that were used until 2013 were made of moulded plastic in the shape of the Saint Joseph's Oratory Basilica.

# Purchase a step leading to the summit of the dome

*Will you have your step?* This question echoes the illustrious fundraising campaign held to support the Basilica's construction 80 years ago, urging people to purchase a stone for the building. Each one of those granite stones found a buyer.

Today, you have the opportunity to purchase one of the steps leading to the summit of the dome, toward the future Observatory to be built in the final phase of the Saint Joseph's Oratory development project.

This exclusive offer is being extended first to you, the benefactors of Saint Brother André's work. (The offer will not be made available to the general public until later in 2020.) Through your unwavering support, your participation in the sanctuary's activities, and your dedication to our mission as a place of welcome, you have eloquently demonstrated your devotion to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.

## A STEP IN YOUR NAME

By purchasing a step, you will be making a donation to help complete this major undertaking. And, the step will be "yours"! You can have your name inscribed on it, or you can choose your family's name or the name of your company. The step can even be dedicated to the memory of someone who is dear to you. In light of the significant cost for every category of step, the amount can be paid over a period of five years. Tax receipts will be issued.

The three categories of interior steps leading to the summit are indicated in different colours on the graph on this page:



Green: **\$2,500** steps  
between the Museum and the Observation gallery



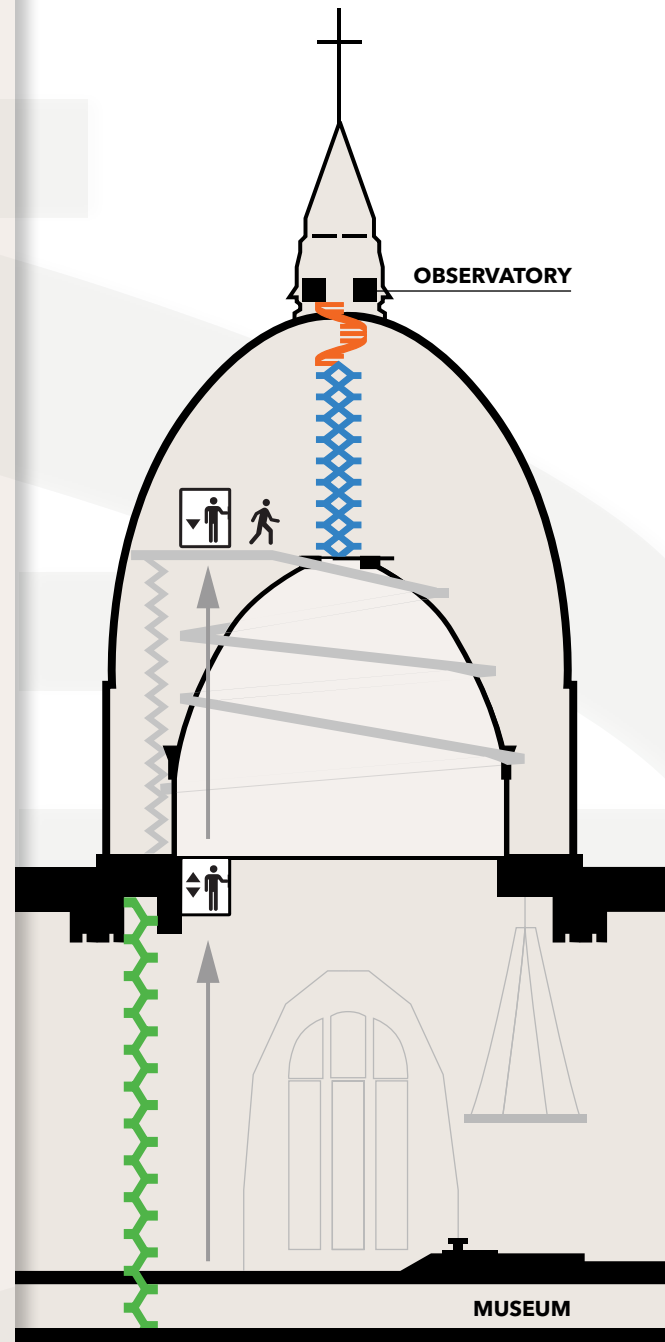
Blue: **\$5,000** steps  
between the oculus and the highest steps



Red: **\$25,000** steps  
leading to the Observatory in the lantern

The funds received from the sale of the steps will be added to those collected through the *Reaching New Heights* campaign, which is aiming to raise \$15 million. We're almost there! We just need your help to reach the last few steps.

*Carve out your place in history!*



**Would you like to purchase a step?  
Would you like more information?**

Please contact Sébastien Côté  
Director, Project Development Funding

514 733-8216, ext. 3131  
sebastiencote@osj.qc.ca

# Your most significant memory

Thank you very much for taking part in the survey we conducted last June. We had a high response rate by mail and email. We would like to share with you some testimonials we received to our first question: *Share with us your most significant memory regarding the Oratory.*

**My grandmother** was born in 1911 in Chicoutimi, QC. She talked about the Oratory very often and now that she has passed, I became a Friend of Brother André to continue her tradition. - **Michael**

**I made my way** to the Original Chapel on the second day of my personal retreat. It was in there that I felt a genuine closeness to Saint Joseph. By the end of my trip I felt that I also got to know Brother André and now have another friend in heaven. - **Martha**

**Praying for guidance** in Brother André Chapel, mourning for loved ones and lighting a candle. - **Frank**

**I came to visit** the Oratory for the first time when I visited my brother here in Montreal after a long drive from Winnipeg. After I lit the candle in the Votive Chapel in front of St. Joseph statue there next to Brother André tomb I felt something touched me on the shoulder and right away I thought I was blessed. I decided to move to Montreal from Winnipeg in 2004. Here I feel closer to Him. - **Emelita**

**Every visit** has been blessed and has brought me closer to Our Lord Jesus Christ. Confession at the Oratory, which is usually throughout the day is such a breath of fresh air, knowing one can go there and prepare and have extra time for Confession and Mass. It is like a mini retreat. - **Sylvia**

**I remember** as a child until late teens our dad always took us to Saint Joseph's Oratory as it also fell on my birthday and we enjoyed the high Mass and visiting the little church and home of Saint Brother André. - **Connie**

**Entering the Basilica** and looking up at the dome and wondering what the view would be like from there! Also the wall of crutches and canes was very moving. Overall its solemnity and peacefulness. - **John**



“ I feel like you're right next to heaven when you're all the way up here. - *Saint Brother André* ”

**Listening to my parents** refer to it as a place for healing and then seeing it for the first time, look up at the steps that my mother climbed on her knees was impactful. - **Roger**

The last but not least, we've asked you if you had to use one word to describe the Oratory, what would it be, and Diane told us, "Home". This simple word is very powerful to describe Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal where everyone is welcome!

## And the winner is...

Among those who answered the survey, Mr. Clément Lafortune, Associate of Brother André, won the \$100-value gift-card from the Oratory's Gift Shop.

**Congratulations!**

# SAINT JOSEPH'S ORATORY LAUNCHES PUBLIC FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Launched on October 24, 2019 in connection with the *Si l'Oratoire m'était conté* event presented at the Basilica, the public fundraising campaign is seeking to raise \$1 million to complete the Oratory's major development project.

In addition to donations from religious congregations and contributions from the business community, the public's support will help the *Reaching New Heights* fundraising campaign achieve its \$15 million objective.

## An unwavering support

The show, which helped kick off the public fundraising campaign, was masterfully hosted by actor Jean-François Porlier and recounted in words, images and music the key moments in the history of Saint Joseph's Oratory.

"As demonstrated in the show, Brother André's dream of building a great shrine in honour of Saint Joseph was shared and supported by many men and women," said Father Claude Grou, CSC. Building on this unwavering support, the Rector of Saint Joseph's Oratory hopes he can continue to count on the public to respond generously.

## A bold advertising campaign

To encourage Montrealers, Quebecers, Canadians and visitors from around the globe to participate in the fundraising effort, a bold and inspiring advertising campaign developed by the agency *Rouge On Blue* is being run in the media and posted in urban areas and on various digital platforms.

The sky has been featured prominently in this campaign, along with the view that visitors will have from the new Observatory to be located at the top of the Basilica's dome:



Montréal's highest viewpoint! The new Observatory—the final phase of the development project—will offer visitors an exceptional experience and will help unlock the shrine's full potential.

***Help us move heaven and earth.  
Be part of our history!***

## Support the campaign through the participatory website!

Visit the new website to learn more about the major development project and make your donation. The site also features videos recorded by public figures including Yannick Nézet-Seguin, Denys Arcand, Robert Dutton, Sœur Angèle, Grégory Charles and Denis Gagnon expressing what the Oratory means to them as a gesture of support for the fundraising campaign. Contribute to this website by sharing with us your own story!

**oratory360.com**

# AT OUR CALENDAR THIS SEASON

## Sunday Concerts

### Montréal Bach Festival

[www.festivalbachmontreal.com](http://www.festivalbachmontreal.com)

From November 3 to December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019

### Noël at the Oratory Concert Series

from December 15 to January 5, 2020

On Sundays, at 3:30 PM, Basilica  
Contribution gratefully accepted  
Live projection on giant screen

December 22, 2019, 3:30 PM, Basilica  
**Traditional Christmas Concert**  
**The Petits Chanteurs  
du Mont-Royal**

Directed by Mr. Andrew Gray  
Vincent Boucher, organist  
*Free*



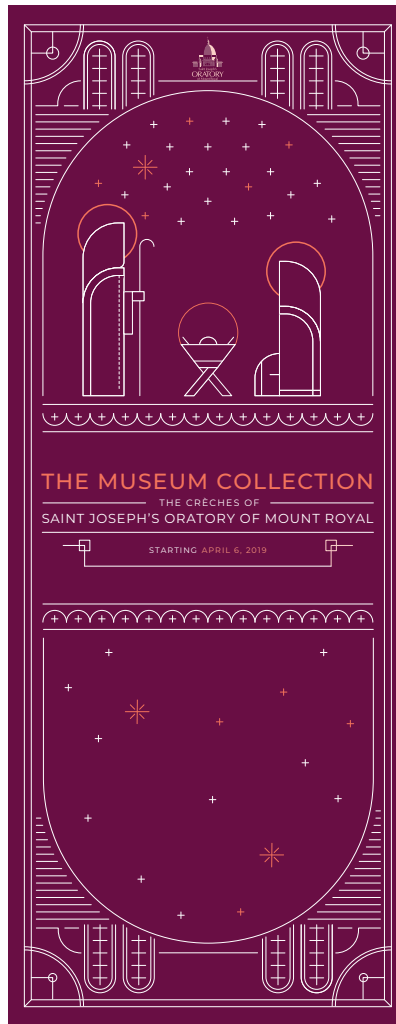
**Aline Kutan**, Soprano  
**Annamaria Popescu**, Mezzo-soprano  
**Zachary Rioux**, Tenor  
**Gregory Dahl**, Baritone  
present

### Handel's Messiah

December 8, 2019, 3:00 PM, Crypt Church

With Les chantres musiciens,  
Les filles de l'île & OCM Choir

*Tickets on sale at The Orchestre classique  
de Montréal (OCM) and at the door  
before the concert*



## At the Oratory Museum

### CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

#### The Museum Collection

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

#### A World in a Crèche

Open daily [\$], 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM



## Celebrating the Holidays!

### Christmas Masses 2019

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30 PM

6:00 PM, Family Mass

9:15 PM (in English)

9:00 PM and Midnight, with Les Petits  
Chanteurs du Mont-Royal (*Pass required:  
available at the Oratory*)

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25

7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00, 11:15 (in English),  
12:30, 3:00 PM (in Spanish),  
4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

### New Year's Eve Mass

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

7:30 PM, Midnight

### New Year's Masses

World Day of Prayer for Peace

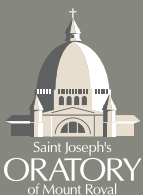
#### WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2020

7:00, 8:00, 9:30, 11:00, 11:15 (in English),  
12:30, 3:00 PM (in Spanish),  
4:30 PM and 7:30 PM

### BLESSING OF FAMILIES AND PILGRIMS

2:00 PM

*Free entrance at the Museum all day*



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MONTREAL QC H3V 1H6  
514 733-8211  
[WWW.SAINT-JOSEPH.ORG](http://WWW.SAINT-JOSEPH.ORG)



Keep in touch with the Oratory thanks to our monthly newsletter!  
You will receive all news about our cultural events. And more!

Register on our website: [www.saint-joseph.org](http://www.saint-joseph.org)