

The Friend of Brother André



SUMMER 2024

A LIFETIME COMMITMENT

Jacqueline Martineau has been dedicated to supporting Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal for a long time. In 1960, she was appointed Grand Associate of Brother André. In May 2002, she and her husband André Chevalier were part of the very first cohort of the Rector's Circle, bringing together benefactors whose consistent support over the years deserved recognition.

"When I started my business in 1948, I promised to donate 1% of my sales to the Oratory," she confides. This gesture had been advised to her by a very devout man. "It's a commitment I will uphold until my death," emphasizes the businesswoman who has passed the torch to her daughter but whose boutique still bears her name.

In fact, she herself had followed in the footsteps of her grandmother Maria Dejordy Martineau, who had run a small fabric store ("coupon store" as it was called at the time) in Lavaltrie. Widowed in 1907 at the age of 29, she took control of her own destiny and that of her two sons, Émile and Maurice, whom she had educated at the Collège de L'Assomption. "My grandmother had houses built for each of her sons," recounts Jacqueline Martineau, daughter of Émile, who still lives in the paternal house where her boutique is also located.

A PRESENCE IN HER COMMUNITY

In 1994, the Chamber of Commerce celebrated the 46 years of operation of Boutique Jacqueline by presenting a plaque to Mrs. Martineau, for her contribution to the vitality of the Autray RCM. Today, with 75 years of activity, her business has welcomed customers searching for clothes, accessories, or gifts. Beyond the longevity of a business, Mrs. Martineau



Bonds are formed over the years within the donor family. In front, Jacqueline Martineau and her husband André Chevalier (right) with Virginio and Lucie Medeiros at the Rector's Circle meeting, May 1, 2024. – Photo: Julien Perron-Gagné

has been involved in the lives of Lavaltriois and Lavaltrioises, supported by her husband André.

Both have great faith in Saint Joseph and Brother André. A lit lamp in their home reminds them to rely on these two protectors for themselves and their family. Annually, they visit the Oratory together to pray and meet others who, like them, have chosen to provide financial assistance to the projects and mission of the Oratory. "It's beautiful, it's pious!" comments the benefactress about this unique place. "I love everything about it!" she concludes, on a happy note.

Strength in numbers



“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together,” says an African proverb. This phrase clearly expresses the idea that when we

work together for a common goal, we can achieve more than if we work individually.

When we’re united and we cooperate, we have the ability of reaching higher summits and overcoming obstacles that would be insurmountable for one single person.

Brother André knew this. From the very beginning of the Oratory, he surrounded himself with people who believed in his project. People from diverse backgrounds with different professions helped him find the financial resources necessary for the successive expansions of the first chapel. There were even more people who wanted to contribute to the construction of a Basilica as great as their generosity!

Following the friends from the early days came the Associates of Brother André in 1954, who have proven over the last seventy years that if you want to go far, go together, or, in other words, there’s strength in numbers. May we continue to work together to reach even higher heights.

Finally, I invite us to collectively carry the Hope of Peace for all countries and individuals who are in great need of it.

Father Michael M. DeLaney, CSC
Rector

ASSOCIATES AT WORK!

The Associates of Brother André are celebrating close to 70 years of existence. Their history dates back to the early days of Saint Joseph’s Oratory. Brother André surrounded himself with friends who wanted to support the development of the shrine. In the days following his death in January 1937, these friends united to continue the work, particularly with the Wednesday Mass for the sick.



A great figure who left his mark on the Associates: Fr. Émile Deguire, CSC, presents a certificate to an Associate of Brother André on May 5, 1957.

Photo: Archives of Saint Joseph’s Oratory

In 1940, Rector Émile Deguire, CSC, made numerous requests in the pages of *The Oratory* magazine to increase the number of donors in order to complete the Basilica as soon as possible. This financing campaign continued until 1950 with the sale of stones for the Basilica walls and the monumental staircase.

With the upcoming 50th anniversary of the shrine, the Oratory’s authorities announced major financial needs. It was urgent to finish work on the Basilica and complete its decoration. In March 1954, people were invited to become an “Associate of Brother André.” This request was successful, and in November, the first Associates were welcomed at a Mass celebrated in the Crypt Church.

Today, thanks to their annual contribution, the Associates of Brother André and the Grand Associates of Brother André are the heart of the large family of the Oratory’s benefactors. (David Bureau)

A YEARLY COMMITMENT with year-round recognition

With an annual contribution of \$175 or more, you become an Associate of Brother André. Your commitment will be recognized all year long with:

- Your Associates card that entitles you to a 20% discount at the boutique (in-person or online purchases) for a year
- A devotional object sent in the Spring
- A special invitation to a recognition event in the Fall
- An exclusive Christmas ornament
- The FRIEND of Brother André newsletter

You can make a one-time donation or enrol in the monthly giving program. You can make your donation online, by mail or by phone. As an Associate of Brother André, you are an integral part of our community of support.

Contact us!

514 733-8211, ext. 2721 OR 1-877-672-8646 | donations@osj.qc.ca

OPENING OF PEDESTRIAN ENTRANCE

The pedestrian entrance of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, which has been closed for the past five years, was open to the public during key moments in recent months. Visitors were finally able to walk again along the long central aisle, so characteristic of the Oratory. They observed the progress of the development project and exciting new features on the site!

After passing through the entrance, pilgrims and visitors discover a cobblestone alley with new lampposts, from the Monument to Saint Joseph to the staircase. The latter has been redone, but the section reserved for pilgrims who wish to ascend on their knees, according to a traditional practice, remains to be finalized. The steps are made of western red cedar. Another winding pedestrian path facilitates movement with strollers.

Note that inside, elevators and escalators will allow mechanized movement both in the future reception pavilion and in the current buildings.



Photo: Nathalie Dumas

The phases A2 and A3 will soon be completed.

The flowerbeds reveal young shoots and recently planted shrubs. The site is undergoing a rejuvenation and great care will be taken in landscaping and maintenance to restore the Oratory to its horticultural charm, worthy of grand gardens.

On the Western side

The vehicle entrance provides access to the parking area located at street level. From this spot, one can admire the bell tower housing the restored carillon of 62 bells. In the evening, this glass structure is illuminated from within. The shuttle continues its back-and-forth trips to the esplanade of the Basilica,

where the temporary main entrance is still located for some time.

Following the major construction work on the reception pavilion, the summer will see the installation of furniture, artworks, signage posts, and the arrangement of the reception area, boutique, restaurant, and rest areas. Behind the scenes, rooms and offices dedicated to staff, the shipping service, and the delivery dock will be made functional.

From this lengthy marathon of work initiated in 2018, the finish line is now in sight. As we mentioned in a previous bulletin, "we are almost there!"

The pennies that built the Basilica

Enormous efforts were made to erect the Oratory Basilica on Mount Royal. Repeated popular subscriptions and the diligent donations from contributors greatly helped to raising the funds required for such an extraordinary construction. More discreetly, personal and family piggy banks played their part by collecting, day by day, spare change offered to "Saint Joseph for his Basilica," as it was written on the small tin box. It was suggested to accompany the act of offering with a prayer to the great saint, ending with: "As a token of our confidence, we lovingly deposit this small offering, as a humble contribution..." Finally, the piggy bank featured the smiling face of Brother André and his conviction-filled words: "It will succeed, Saint Joseph's temple will be completed."



This vintage piggy bank reminds us that all donations are important. It was true yesterday, and it remains true today.

THE MUST-SEES

Garden of the Way of the Cross

A place of peace,
a meditative haven of beauty



Daily, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Free admission

Guided tours of the Oratory

Daily, 1:00 p.m.
until September 1st [\$]

The Museum Collection

The Crèches of Saint Joseph's
Oratory of Mount Royal

Daily, 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. [\$]

I REMEMBER

*One hundred years ago, the cornerstone of the Basilica of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal was blessed on **August 31, 1924**. An important milestone in the history of the sanctuary! The beginning of a great adventure marked by faith, perseverance and unwavering popular support.*



COMMUNITIES IN PILGRIMAGE

Special Mass for Filipino Heritage Month

Our Heritage, Be Pilgrims of Love

Friday June 7, 6:30 p.m.
Basilica (in English)

Annual Pilgrimage of the Haitian Community

In honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
Patron saint of Haiti

Rosary and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, at 4 p.m.
Mass presided over by Fr. Bernard Antoine, CSC.



Saturday, June 29, 5:30 p.m.,
Basilica (in French and Creole)

TRIBUTE TO A FRIEND, A BROTHER, A SAINT

August, Month of Saint Brother André

Born Alfred Bessette on August 9, 1845



Photo: André Charron, CSC

Visit our website for a complete schedule of events! www.saint-joseph.org

Annual Pilgrimage to Mont-Saint-Grégoire Birthplace of Brother André

Mass at the Parish Church of Mont-Saint-Grégoire at 11 a.m.
Lunch at a sugar shack at 12:30 p.m. [reservation required]

Prayer at the Monument of Saint Brother André at 2:30 p.m.
\$35 including transportation and meal
Departure by bus from the Oratory at 9 a.m., return at 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, August 25 – Tickets available at the Information and Blessing Office of the Oratory or at 514 733-8211 ext. 2795



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Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is a
ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross



Production: Communications Office
Caron Communications graphiques | Transcontinental