

FALL 2024

The Friend of Brother André

THE GOLDEN ROSE

SIGN OF HONOUR AND MERIT

Twenty years ago, Pope John Paul II offered the Golden Rose to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal on the occasion of the one hundredth anniversary of its foundation. The papal gift was unveiled during the Solemn Mass of the Basilica's Dedication on October 17, 2004, in the presence of a delighted assembly.

In the name of the Holy Father, the Apostolic Nuncio presented the Golden Rose declaring: *"To the most distinguished Sanctuary dedicated to the faithful and simple worker of Nazareth, in this day of its dedication, which solemnly confirms its special and sacred value, the gift of the Pope is granted as an extraordinary sign of honour and merit, because it is a privileged place of grace and hope."*

These strong and heartfelt words aptly describe the origins of the work founded by Brother André in 1904, and what it has become over the years. The many testimonials received bear witness to the fact that the Oratory has never ceased to be a place where God's graces and blessings abound. The Golden Rose is its distinguished symbol.

A PUBLIC RECOGNITION

For its beauty and fragrance, the rose has always been considered the ultimate flower; gold is the superlative of colors and values. It is in this spirit that the Golden Rose is offered by the Pope as a public recognition of merit towards individuals or places.

Since the 11th century, this distinction has been awarded to monasteries, sanctuaries, sovereigns, and personalities to highlight their commitment to faith and the common good. In 2004, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal became the first shrine in Canada to have its name added to the list of recipients.



The Golden Rose offered by Pope John Paul II to mark the centennial of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, in 2004.

THE ORATORY'S ROSE

Pilgrims at the Oratory had the opportunity to see this precious gift highlighted during major celebrations, including the commemorative mass for the death of John Paul II in April 2005. The Golden Rose that he offered to the Oratory in the 26th year of his pontificate weighs 497 grams, measures 41.5 cm in height and 17.2 cm in width. Made by Fratelli Tavani of Rome, the blessed object consists of two roses, two buds, and 19 leaves, one of which is adorned with the papal Coat of Arms.

In this year of the 4th centenary of Canada's consecration to Saint Joseph, this Golden Rose serves as a reminder of the special and sacred value of "the most distinguished Sanctuary" erected in his honour, "a privileged place of grace and hope."
(Nathalie Dumas)

A beautiful large family



Day after day, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal offers a welcoming, respectful, and inclusive environment. Each person who walks through its doors is greeted with warmth and respect.

The Oratory is not only a physical place where it feels good to be, but it is also a dynamic and vibrant community. The relationship between Brother André's Associates and the Oratory illustrates this well. The Associates are much more than donors: "they are part of the family," as they say. They feel a deep attachment to this work founded by Saint Brother André; they give it life and ensure its continuity.

Among the Associates themselves, the sense of community and solidarity is palpable. The relationships formed at the Oratory are often deep and lasting, based on shared values and a common mission.

A call to everyone

However, to ensure the sanctuary's continuity, it is crucial to welcome new Associates. We call upon all those who wish to join the thousands of Brother André's friends and supporters.

By becoming an Associate, you not only help to maintain the Oratory but also enrich its contribution to society. Don't hesitate—join the great family of the Oratory!

As the Director of the Associates, I take this opportunity in this newsletter to warmly thank all those who are already part of our recognition program: Associates, Grand Associates, Members of the Rector's Circle. Your commitment is invaluable!

Together, to the extent of our abilities, let us continue to care for this place of faith celebration, this heritage gem, this haven of healing and peace.

Patrick Vézina, CSC

Father Patrick Vézina, CSC
Director of the Associates of Brother André

A CELEBRATION IN TRIBUTE TO THE DECEASED

Attending the Remembrance Mass at Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal on November 2nd is an act of respect and remembrance for those who have left us. It is a gesture of appreciation not for who they were but for who they continue to be through the many memories we hold of them. It is a way to honour what we have learned and received from them.

This celebration allows a time for reflection and prayer for our departed. It is also an opportunity to recall the importance of life and death, as well as to strengthen family and community bonds. By participating in this mass, one can find comfort and support among others who share a common grief and draw hope in the resurrection.



All friends of the Oratory are invited to this gathering of solidarity and reflection, which will bring us together to remember with dignity and love those we have known and loved.

Remembrance Mass
Saturday, November 2nd, 10 a.m.
Crypt Church

AN EVERLASTING HOMAGE

Making a donation in memoriam to Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal is a deeply touching way to honour the memory of a loved one. This symbolic gesture transforms the pain of loss into a positive force that allows their legacy to endure and keeps their influence alive in the lives of others.

It is also a way to find comfort in knowing that your loved one's memory contributes to meaningful actions and positive changes. Each donation becomes a lasting tribute, offering hope and support to those in need, and turning a personal loss into an act of generosity that transcends time.

Honour the memory of your loved ones.
Make an in memoriam donation today.

Contact us: 514 733-8211, ext. 2851

With autumn comes Thanksgiving Day, the second Monday in October. More than just a holiday, it's a time to stop and be thankful. Here is a testimonial imbued with this precious value.

CARRIED BY GRATITUDE

Christine Tokarewicz frequently visits Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. "I live five minutes from the Oratory," she mentions, "I always go there in my 4-wheel mobility scooter." Thanks to her little red vehicle, she confidently navigates the site, as she knows the place and the schedule of activities well.

She also knows the staff and the religious members of the pastoral team. Recently, she wrote to them expressing her gratitude: "Just a few words to thank you for the beauty of the liturgical celebrations as well as for your homilies, which deeply resonate with me."

Her faith in God and prayer occupy a significant place in her life. She doesn't hesitate to highlight: "I have a deep devotion to Saint Joseph and Saint Brother André." In fact, she composed prayers in their honour in the form of acrostics, one of which was published in L'ORATOIRE magazine last year. "I always enjoy the magazines. Everything is excellent in their content, and their presentation is very beautiful," she says enthusiastically.



Christine Tokarewicz in the Oratory's Crypt Church. – Photo: N. Dumas

When someone dear to her passes away, Christine lights a votive lamp and makes a mass offering in their memory. Her care is also evident in her emails, which she often concludes with this original wish: "Have a good day always!" An inspiring message that calls for hope.

Saint Joseph's Oratory is like a second home for Christine. For 22 years, she contributed to the celebrations through her volunteer commitment in the adult choir. A hymn of praise, a song of thanksgiving—that is Christine's life, that is her presence in this blessed place.

Through your donations, you help the Oratory offer accessible spaces and services that promote welcome and participation for all. In their name, gratitude and thanks!

A Gesture for the Future

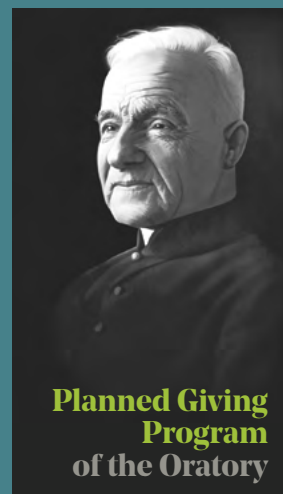
A planned donation is much more than a simple act of generosity; it is a legacy of kindness and hope. Imagine the impact you can have by leaving a portion of your resources to a cause close to your heart.

It is a gesture that transcends time, extending your influence far beyond your own life. Planning a donation means choosing to believe in a bright future and leaving a mark of compassion. This thoughtful act of generosity embodies the essence of solidarity and selfless love.

At the Oratory, you provide a guarantee of stability and continuity essential to pursue its mission of welcoming, benefiting our children and their children, those in search of God, happiness, healing, or hope. It is, in short, the most beautiful way to extend your positive influence for a world filled with hope and endless possibilities.

Explore the possibilities and tax benefits:

Ellen Morin – Planned Giving Program | 514-733-8211, ext. 2523 | emorin@osj.qc.ca



**Planned Giving
Program
of the Oratory**

MUSIC AT THE ORATORY

Reubke, Saint-Saëns and Widor

Shin-Young Lee, organ
Vincent Boucher, host



Sunday, October 20 – Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Free admission (Voluntary fee)

Messiaen's Livre du Saint Sacrement

Hans-Ola Ericsson, organ

Concert in partnership
with the Canadian
International Organ Competition (CIOC)



Saturday, October 26 – Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Free admission, but reservation
required at ciocm.org

**Closing of the 4th century
of the consecration of the
country to Saint Joseph
and 120th anniversary of the
founding of the Oratory**

Mass presided by Most Rev. Martin
Laliberté, Bishop of Trois-Rivières
and President of the Assembly
of Quebec Catholic Bishops

Sunday, October 20 – Basilica, 11 a.m.

Welcome to all!

festival **Bach**
Montréal

Concerts presented by the
Oratory in partnership with
the Montréal Bach Festival

A GREAT RENDEZVOUS Sunday, November 17



Concert on the Restored Carillon

Works by J.S. Bach
and other composers

Andrée-Anne Doane, titular carillonneur

2 p.m., outdoor – Free admission

Special Concert

Missa Redemptoris Custos (Daveluy)
Toccata and fugue in C major (Bach)
Aus tiefer Not schrei ich zu dir (Bach)

Vincent Boucher, titular organist,
Great organ

Federico Andreno,
Choir organ

Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal

Alain Duguay, baritone
Brass Ensemble

Andrew Gray, conductor
Mario Paquet, host

Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Tickets [\$]

J.S. Bach and L.C. Daquin: An Imaginary Duel

The Schola de l'Oratoire
Vincent Boucher, Great organ
Mario Paquet, host



Sunday, November 24 – Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Free admission (Voluntary fee)

Organ concert

Katelyn Emerson, organ



Sunday, December 1st – Basilica, 3:30 p.m.
Tickets [\$]

Tickets on sale at
festivalbachmontreal.com

Photos: Alain Lefort (V. Boucher), Clayton Kennedy
(A. Gray), Rosen Jones (K. Emerson)



3800 QUEEN MARY ROAD
MONTREAL QC H3V 1H6
514 733-8211
WWW.SAINT-JOSEPH.ORG

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



Production: Communications Office
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