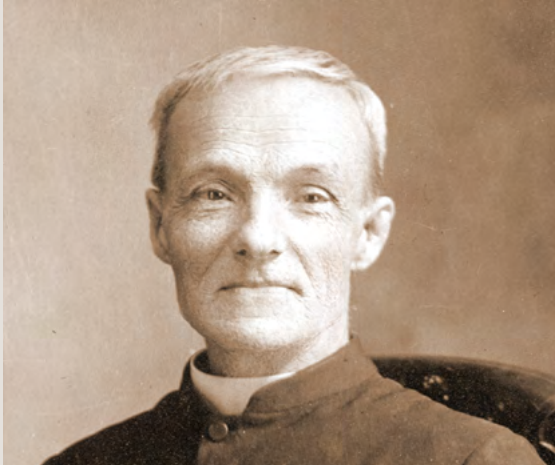
SPRING 2026

The Friend of Brother André



THE MARCEL-LALONDE RECEPTION PAVILION: ***ONE YEAR ALREADY!***

One year ago, we opened the doors of the **new Marcel-Lalonde Reception Pavilion**, named in honour of the rector who guided Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal from 1962 to 1992. More than twenty years in the making, this ambitious project reflects the enduring commitment and vision of the Oratory and the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Since its inauguration in February 2025, the pavilion has quickly won over visitors and pilgrims alike, who especially appreciate its direct street-level access, bright and spacious design, and atmosphere that feels both welcoming and inspiring.

Spanning 5,000 square metres across four floors, the pavilion offers a distinctive experience from the moment you step inside. A large boutique, a glass-walled café, inviting lounge areas, and a versatile hall that can host 200 to 300 guests ensure that everyone feels at ease—whether stopping for a break, gathering for an event, or seeking a quiet moment of reflection. Visitors have also praised the exhibitions, which showcase treasured artifacts from the Oratory's heritage collection, many of which were previously kept in storage.

An Experience to Discover

Yet the pavilion is more than beautiful and functional. Designed with sustainability at its core, it incorporates leading-edge systems for rainwater recovery, superior thermal insulation, green roofs, and locally sourced or reclaimed materials. These choices reaffirm the Oratory's commitment to environmental stewardship while providing a healthy and comfortable space for all.



Photo: Adrien Williams

More than just a building, the pavilion is an invitation—to explore, to connect, and to renew. Every area has been thoughtfully designed to create a setting where people can move freely, pause, admire, and share. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive: this new space makes the shrine experience more accessible, enjoyable, and memorable than ever.

Whether you are a longtime friend or a first-time visitor, we invite you to return and experience this unique place where heritage, beauty, and heartfelt hospitality come together.

Come often. Come always.

A Path of Welcome, Hope and Pilgrimage



It's hard to believe a year has already passed since our beautiful Marcel-Lalonde Reception Pavilion opened its doors! This milestone is a key step in our Major Development Project, which continues with one final essential phase: the creation of the museum space and access to the dome lantern, offering an unparalleled view of the city. Completing this project, despite limited funds, is crucial to ensuring the Oratory's long-term future.

Throughout its history, the Oratory has seen pauses in its construction projects. Each time, generous donors stepped forward to carry the work further. Today, we continue to rely on this same spirit of solidarity, which allows us not only to build, but to highlight and preserve religious art and architecture, in keeping with the mission, values, and sanctity of the place.

Moreover, we are celebrating this year the 25th anniversary of the Rector's Circle, a group of devoted donors who have supported our mission for a quarter of a century. We need their support as much as we need yours!

In this sanctuary, every stone serves prayer, welcome, and hope. The path to the dome will be a true pilgrimage, a journey marked by unique experiences in each space visited. It is a journey that is cultural and spiritual, inviting each person to ascend not only in height but also to explore deeper dimensions within themselves, fostering a profound encounter between the human and the divine.

Dear friends, know that at the Oratory, you hold a very special place in our prayers.

Bernard Antoine csc

Fr. Bernard Antoine, CSC
Rector

Every Gift Makes a Tangible Difference

Our donor's generosity has a direct impact on the daily life and mission of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal. Thanks to their commitment, the sanctuary remains a place of peace and hope where everyone is welcomed with warmth and compassion. Their support creates space for people to lay down what they carry in their hearts—in prayer, trust, and solidarity. It also sustains liturgical celebrations, spiritual and cultural programs, the preservation of our heritage, and our efforts to protect the environment.

Why not join the Recognition Program by making a regular donation?

Annual Giving Levels:

- The **Friends** of Brother André: $75
- The **Associates** of Brother André: $175
- The **Grand Associates** of Brother André: $175
  (a cumulative contribution of $2,000 grants this title for life)
- Members of the **Rector's Circle**: $1,000

The title **Guardians of the Oratory** is conferred upon those who make a planned gift, whether through a bequest, a life insurance policy, or a gift of securities.

Our monthly donors—the **Artisans of the Oratory**—choose simplicity and peace of mind through an automatic contribution that can be adjusted at any time. For us, monthly giving provides a stable and predictable source of revenue, making it easier to plan programs and develop long-term projects with confidence.

Each form of commitment comes with specific privileges. Our Philanthropic Development team would be delighted to share the details with you.

You are at the heart of Brother André's mission. We invite you to reach out and discover how your generosity can make a lasting difference.

To donate
514 733-8211 ext. 2851
dons@osj.qc.ca

Planned Gift
514 733-8211 ext. 2523
emorin@osj.qc.ca

The Associates of Brother André
514 733-8211 ext.2721
associes@osj.qc.ca

www.saint-joseph.org

Rector's Circle Builders of the Future

Twenty-five years ago, the Rector's Circle was established during a gathering at Saint Joseph's Oratory that brought together some thirty Associates of Brother André on May 1st, 2002, the feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. The date was meaningful: members of the Circle would be called to play an active role as builders in the Major Development Project of the Oratory, relaunched with renewed energy in 2001.





"Let us support Brother André's dream and continue building Saint Joseph's Oratory," wrote Rector Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, in the pages of *The FRIEND* at the time. The contemporary development of the shrine would thus complete the work begun by Brother André—humble in its origins in 1904 yet destined for remarkable growth throughout the twentieth century. The realization of the development project would address new requirements in accessibility, safety, and environmental responsibility and, in its final phase, would provide access to the lantern of the Basilica.

A Vast Network of Friends

A major project requires significant resources, and people who believe in it. "It was thanks to his friends that Brother André was able to realize his dream. And it is with you that we continue it today," Rector Aumont reminded the Oratory's benefactors, who since 1954 have formed the Associates of Brother André. Each year, some are named Grand Associates in recognition of their cumulative annual giving, honoring their fidelity and generosity toward the mission.

"A MAJOR PROJECT REQUIRES SIGNIFICANT RESOURCES AND PEOPLE WHO BELIEVE IN IT."

The scope of the development project at Saint Joseph's Oratory called for an even greater commitment, with more substantial annual gifts. From the very beginning of the Rector's Circle, members pledged to contribute a minimum of $1,000 per year. This commitment echoed the generosity of Brother André's earliest collaborators. Some had achieved notable professional or business success and chose to support this work of prayer, hope, and unconditional welcome. The same spirit has animated the members of the Rector's Circle from 2002 to the present day.

A Growing Circle

Over the past 25 years, the Circle has expanded annually, welcoming new Builders (minimum $1,000), Advisors ($2,500 and up), Vice-Governors ($5,000 and up), and Governors ($10,000 and more). It currently has 732 active members. Longevity within the Circle is marked by the presentation of a lapel pin—bronze after one year, silver after five years, and gold after ten—worn with pride. Honorary plaques are presented to members celebrating 15 and 20 years of participation.









– Rectors of Saint Joseph's Oratory since the founding of the Circle –

Father Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC (1993-2005) | Father Claude Grou, CSC (2005-2020)
Father Michael DeLaney, CSC (2020-2024) | Father Bernard Antoine, CSC (2024-...)

At the upcoming annual gathering of the Rector's Circle, this Spring, benefactors from the very first cohort will still be present 25 years later. Twenty-five years of steadfast support and generosity, inspired by deep affection for Saint Brother André and for his life's work, Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal.





Building with Saint Joseph, the Worker



Among the active members of the Circle, approximately one-third attend the annual gathering at the Oratory on May 1st, feast of Saint Joseph the Worker. The celebration of the Eucharist first brings the group together in the Crypt Church. Guests are then invited to a convivial meal in the Pichette Room, where the Rector expresses heartfelt gratitude to these benefactors and close friends of the mission.

A conference presentation is also offered during the gathering, highlighting themes connected to the Oratory's ongoing development. In 2002, architect Jacques Reeves unveiled the first plans for the Major Development Project. In 2003, Father Robert Choquette, vice-postulator, provided an update on the progress of Brother André's Cause for canonization. In 2004, historian and author Denise Robillard spoke about the shrine's earliest friends and supporters. More recently, archivist David Bureau introduced today's builders to the Basilica's major construction works and the craftsmen behind them.

Beyond the titles inscribed on certificates and the amounts contributed, the benefactors who form the Rector's Circle see themselves above all as friends of the mission. A friendship 25 years strong, solid as rock. **(Nathalie Dumas)**

Pictures pages 3 and 4: 2002 to 2008, N. Dumas; 2017: S. Martin; 2023 to 2025, J. Perron-Gagné

HONOUR A LOVED ONE

Saint Joseph's Oratory is one of Montréal's most beautiful green spaces, surrounded by urban forests, blooming gardens, and thoughtfully designed places of reflection.

Would you like to dedicate a tree or a bench to someone dear to you?

You now have the opportunity to make this meaningful gesture in the serene setting of the Oratory. Each dedication includes a personalized plaque — a discreet and lasting tribute to a deep connection with this place of peace and spirituality.

Dedicate a tree
$750 | $1,500

Dedicate a bench
$2,500 | $5,000

Plaques are installed in the Spring and Fall.

WE CONTINUE THE ASCENT TOWARD THE DOME

The final phase of the Major Development Project, which includes the creation of the Museum spaces and access to the dome, is about to resume. Preliminary work is scheduled to begin in the Spring.

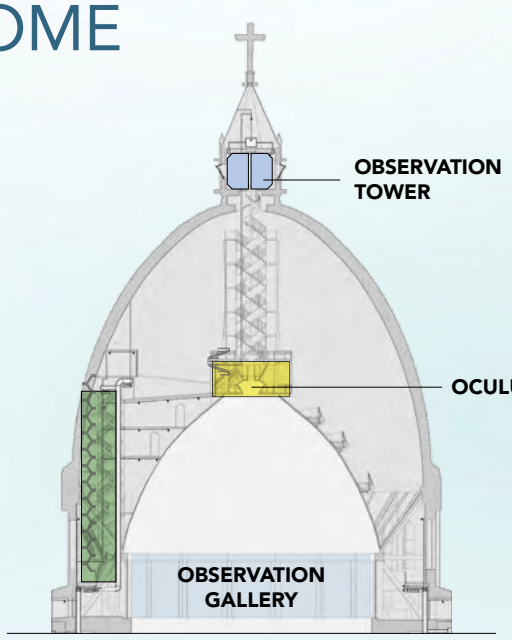
This phase of the project has several objectives. These include making the site more attractive, developing its tourism and commercial potential, positioning the dome among the top domes to visit in the world, and promoting and enhancing religious architecture and art while respecting the site, our mission and our values. The path to the dome will be a pilgrimage, with specific experiences in each area along the way. The journey will be cultural and spiritual at the same time.

However, the financial challenges resulting from rising material and labour costs remain a concern.

Help us to keep Saint Brother André's dream alive!

A STEP IN YOUR NAME…

Do you have your own step yet? As we have refined our plans, steps have been added to those proposed in 2019. This step will be "yours"! You can have your own name, your family's name or your company's name inscribed on it. The step can even be dedicated to the memory of a departed loved one.



- 111 steps at $2,500 each, between the observation gallery and the oculus
- 50 steps at $5,000 each, close to the oculus
- 8 windows at $100,000 each in the observation tower

The top of the dome will be the highest vantage point in Montréal, with eight windows offering a breathtaking view!

Would you like to learn more about these gifts?
Contact us: Sylvie Lefebvre, Associates of Brother André
514 733-8211, ext. 2721 | associes@osj.qc.ca

Holy Week at the Oratory
Schedule of celebrations

PALM SUNDAY, March 29

Regular Sunday Mass schedule
Blessing of palms at all Masses

HOLY THURSDAY, April 2

Mass of the Lord's Supper

Crypt Church	4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.*(Bilingual)

GOOD FRIDAY, April 3

Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

Basilica	3 p.m.*
Crypt Church	3 p.m. (English)

Way of the Cross

Crypt Church	7:30 p.m. (Bilingual)

HOLY SATURDAY, April 4

Easter Vigil

Basilica	7:30 p.m.*
Crypt Church	7:30 p.m. (English)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 5

The Resurrection of the Lord

Basilica	11 a.m.*, 12:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.
Crypt Church	7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11:15 a.m. (English), 3 p.m. (Spanish)

**With the participation of Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal*

All activities are conducted in French except where noted.





Explore the Collections of the Oratory Museum

Discover the new virtual exhibition *Oratory Stories* which showcases the Museum's collections as well as the historical, artistic, and intangible heritage of the sanctuary. Exclusive videos and photos, fascinating stories, original artifacts, a unique interactive experience! – **oratorystories.org**

Garden of the Way of the Cross

Opening May 1st
Daily, 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Free admission

Filipino Heritage Month Celebration

Friday June 19, Basilica
Mass in English | 4 p.m.

Annual Pilgrimage of the Haitian Community

In honour of Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Saturday, June 27, Basilica
Rosary and Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament | 3 p.m.
Mass in French and Creole | 4:30 p.m.

AUGUST, MONTH OF SAINT BROTHER ANDRÉ



Annual Pilgrimage to Mont-Saint-Grégoire

Birthplace of Brother André

Sunday, August 30
[$ reservation required]

Tickets available in June at the Information and Blessing Office of the Oratory or at 514 733-8211 ext. 2795

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

Saint Joseph's ORATORY of Mount Royal

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