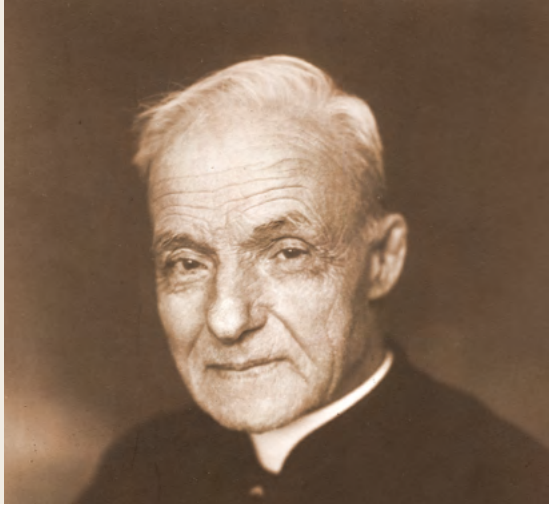
WINTER 2026-2027

The Friend of Brother André



"WE ARE MADE FOR GOD!"

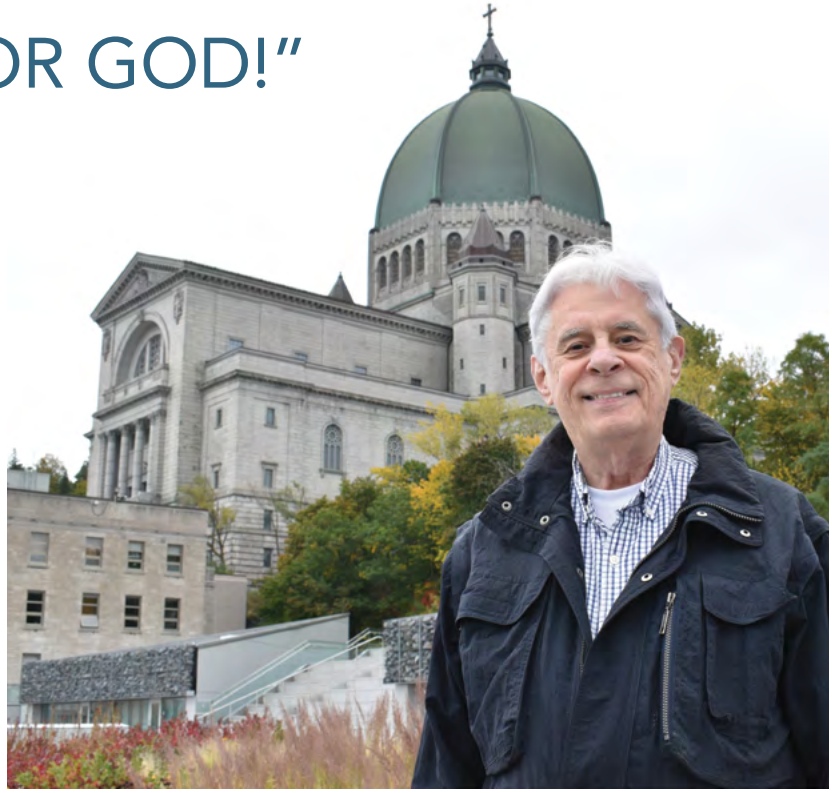
The dime glimmered in the palm of his hand like a ray of sunshine. For a boy growing up in Saint-Henri amid the rumble of trains, black dust and poverty, it represented a small fortune and a fleeting moment of happiness. With candour and honesty, Raymond Patry looks back on his childhood and reflects on the years when he lost his way.

"One day, everything fell apart. I was in my prime, good at making money, and seemingly successful. Then it was as though God said to me, 'That's enough, Raymond!'" Neither poverty nor the illusion of wealth would ultimately define his life.

Through the Anonymous Movement, he rediscovered God and the importance of what truly matters. "In life, you have to find your source," says Raymond, now a man at peace. "We are made for God," he explains. He nurtures his faith through prayer, Mass, meditation inspired by the great mystics, silence and a need for the tangible.

"THE ORATORY IS SOMETHING TANGIBLE"

His deepest aspiration is to "rebuild the world as it should be, in a concrete way." Donating to Saint Joseph's Oratory and other worthy causes is one way he works toward that goal. "The Oratory is something tangible," he says emphatically. "Why contribute? Because we want it to endure! We need that landmark—something solid and lasting."



For Raymond Patry, monthly giving is a way to maintain his connection with Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal throughout the year. Photo: N. Dumas

Raymond Patry is proud to be a Grand Associate of Brother André, helping ensure the Oratory's future. In 2015, he joined the monthly giving program. This way of giving appeals to his need to see tangible results: "For me, it's something real. I can see my donation." Each month, his contribution appears in his bank account. "It keeps me connected to the Oratory."

Over the years, he has increased his monthly donation. Like other Grand Associates and Associates of Brother André, he knows that the Oratory's needs are great. "At a time when so many churches are closing, the Oratory must remain open for everyone who wants to come and pray," Raymond Patry says with conviction.

Would you like to increase your monthly gift?
Interested in joining our monthly giving program?
Please contact us to learn more!

Witnesses to the Promise



He had promised it. He had proclaimed it. And now, he has come!

At Christmas, God's promise is fulfilled. What he had promised to his people becomes reality: the promised Child is given to us, the Saviour is born, and light rises in our darkness. God keeps his word. His promise becomes flesh, presence and life: his promise becomes Jesus.

In Jesus, God enters into our lives, our joys and our vulnerabilities, our hopes and our emptiness. He comes to fill them with his peace, his light and his hope. Faith invites us to keep watch, our eyes fixed on the light where God's promise takes flesh.

The shepherds are the first witnesses to this promise fulfilled. Simple and open-hearted, they receive the angels' message, set out on their journey and discover the Child lying in the manger. In this way, as Pope Francis said, "the shepherds become the first to see the most essential thing of all: the gift of salvation."

Christmas invites us to recognize that God's promise has been fulfilled and to set out on our own journey to encounter the One who has been given to us.

At the manger, God brings us back to what truly matters: he has kept his promise. He is with us. May we, too, become witnesses of what matters most, offering the Child our hearts, our trust, our joys and our hopes. The promise fulfilled becomes, today, a living promise: God is with us.

I invite you to come and celebrate Christmas at Saint Joseph's Oratory, the place where Joseph made his home, where the Holy Family awaits you.

Bernard Antoine csc

Fr. Bernard Antoine, CSC
Rector

Your Generosity, Your Way

ONE-TIME GIFT

Every gift counts and makes a real difference! You can give online, by phone, by mail or in person, using a credit card, cheque, bank transfer or one of our donation kiosks. No gift is too small.

MONTHLY GIVING

Monthly giving is a commitment to make a recurring gift of a set amount by bank transfer or credit card. Simple and predictable, it provides ongoing support to the sanctuary while giving you the satisfaction of making a meaningful and lasting difference, month after month. Monthly giving is an easy way to spread your generosity throughout the year.

IN MEMORIAM GIFT

A gift made in memory of someone is an act of compassion and remembrance. It offers a meaningful way to honour the life of a loved one while providing hope and support to those they leave behind. Through your gift, you can express your condolences with care and sensitivity. Upon request, the Oratory can provide or send *In Memoriam* donation cards directly to the funeral home.

PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving allows your generosity to live on and helps ensure the long-term future of the work founded by Saint Brother André. By including the Oratory in your will, you extend your presence to those who will come here in search of peace, light and hope. Your gift becomes a lasting expression of prayer, support and welcome for generations to come. Our team can guide you, in complete confidence, through the options available to you.

Questions, comments, requests for information, or address changes?

PLEASE CONTACT US WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

Annual Campaign
514 733-8211, ext. 2851
1 877 672-8647
dons@osj.qc.ca

The Associates and Grand Associates
514 733-8211, ext. 2721
associes@osj.qc.ca

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

www.saint-joseph.org/en/online-donation/

The FRIEND of Brother André

MESSENGER OF THE ORATORY'S PROJECTS AND NEEDS

It all began with an urgent appeal. An S.O.S. that reached the homes of 400,000 friends of the sanctuary through a special fundraising bulletin mailed in February 1956. The stakes were high, as its front-page headline made clear: "Complete suspension of work at St. Joseph's Basilica imminent." A total of $400,000 was needed to complete the church's interior walls and allow it to open permanently for worship as early as that summer.

It was in the midst of this critical situation that regular mass mailings to the Oratory's benefactors took shape, with the quarterly publication of *The FRIEND of Brother André* beginning in November. There is no doubt that the completion of the Basilica's interior was made possible in part through *The FRIEND* and the many people behind it. For 70 years, the bulletin has served as a link with thousands of donors. A messenger of the Oratory's projects and needs, it is also an expression of gratitude.

Encouraging Acts of Generosity

From one issue to the next, *The FRIEND* promoted the Dollar Campaign, stamp drives and almsgiving campaigns; introduced "Saint Joseph's little banks" and offered countless other ways to encourage the friends of Saint Joseph to give. Among them were the Associates of Brother André, established in 1954, whose annual membership contributions and other regular gifts were intended to provide the sanctuary with the revenue needed for its upkeep and operating expenses.

With clarity and optimism, the bulletin's editors reported on the work to be carried out, the Basilica's decoration program, the installation of the great organ, anniversaries at the Oratory, and the religious activities held there throughout the year. *The FRIEND* also closely followed Brother André's Cause for canonization from 1960 to 2010, as well as the Oratory's Major Development Project.

You answered without hesitation: "Count on us!"

The donation coupons enclosed with each issue returned to the Oratory with generous gifts, sometimes accompanied by special intentions. Over 70 years, the response has never disappointed. When the appeal was made, "We need you," you answered without hesitation: "Count on us!"

To all who care deeply about the interests of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, thank you for reading *The FRIEND* and for supporting Brother André's work according to your means.



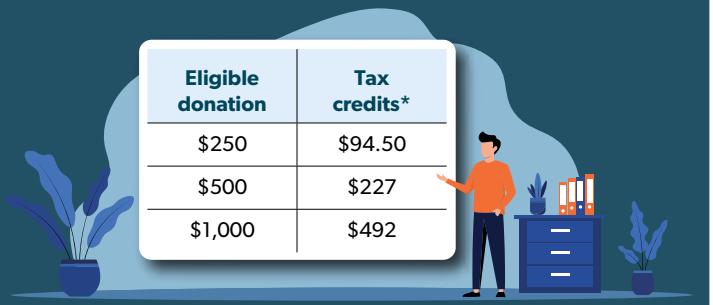
Opposite: S.O.S. Bulletin, February 1956. *The FRIEND*, May 1968, June 2013 and Summer 2020.

Did you know that your donation may qualify you for tax credits?

In Canada, eligible donations made to a registered charitable organization may qualify you for federal and provincial or territorial tax credits. This means that a portion of your donation may come back to you in the form of tax savings, while your generosity continues to fully support the mission of Saint Joseph's Oratory.

For example, for a Quebec resident:

Eligible donation	Tax credits*
$250	$94.50
$500	$227
$1,000	$492



**Example based on the general tax rates applicable in 2026.*

CHRISTMAS CONCERTS

in co-production with our partners

Händel's Messiah

Orchestre classique de Montréal
Andrei Feher, conductor
Vocal quartet of renowned soloists
OCM Professional Choir

⇢ **Thursday, December 10, 7:30 p.m., Crypt Church**
[$] Tickets: orchestre.tuxedobillet.com

Christmas Concert

Ensemble Clavecin en concert
Luc Beauséjour, organ, harpsichord, conductor
Vocal quartet Feu Secret
Brass quintet Élénya

⇢ **Friday, December 11, 7:30 p.m., Crypt Church**
[$] Tickets: clavecinenconcert.com

Concert by Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal

A festive repertoire of traditional Christmas carols from around the world
Andrew Gray, conductor

⇢ **Sunday, December 13, 3:30 p.m., Basilica**
Free admission (voluntary fee)

Let's Celebrate!

Christmas Masses 2026

Thursday, December 24
4:30 p.m. Family Mass,
7:30 p.m. (English),
9:00 p.m. and Midnight:
with Les Petits Chanteurs du Mont-Royal
(Pass required for these two Masses: available at the Oratory)

Friday, December 25
7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.,
11:15 a.m. (English), 12:30 p.m.,
3 p.m. (Spanish), 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

New Year's Masses

Thursday, December 31
7:30 p.m. (French, English)
and Midnight (French, Creole)

World Day of Peace
Friday, January 1st, 2027
7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 11 a.m.,
11:15 a.m. (English), 12:30 p.m.,
3 p.m. (Spanish), 4:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Blessing of families and pilgrims, 2 p.m.



Nativity Scene from Poland, The Oratory Museum

The Museum's Collection

The Crèches of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal
The Nativity crafted by artists and artisans from various countries.
Over 100 works to admire!

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

Order it now!

2027 CALENDAR

Heritage works and new attractions
Religious and civil holidayss
Dates in large print



A bit of the Oratory in your home!
boutique.saint-joseph.org

Your Feedback Matters for the Future of the Oratory

Is the Oratory important to you?
We want to hear from you.
By learning more about your interests, habits and expectations, we can continue to enhance the welcome and services we provide to our visitors and pilgrims.

The survey takes less than 15 minutes to complete. **Complete the survey by December 31, 2026**, for a chance to win **one of five $35 gift certificates** to the Oratory Boutique.

Take the survey today!

Saint Joseph's ORATORY of Mount Royal
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MONTRÉAL 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

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