



Special issue on Saint Brother André

**THE GUARDIAN OF CRUSADERS**

Bulletin of the Eucharistic Crusade for Canada

October 2010 # 207

# CANONISATION OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

Dear Crusaders,

The most important thing to do in life, it is to please God. The catechism will tell you how to do; but, sometimes you wonder how it applies to your everyday life.

Now, let me tell you about a very simple way to make sure you will be pleasing God: it is with the imitation of Jesus-Christ: Jesus is our Master, and we have to become His good students. A student will apply himself to put into practice all the teachings that he is receiving from his master. But a good Christian will go even further: not only will he learn his catechism, but he will apply himself so as to do everything as Jesus did. It means that he will try his best to always think, and live like Jesus thought and lived.

To some people it is a big challenge to live like Jesus. How can we reach this high goal? This is not something impossible, but let me give you a few hints, for there is a very simple way available to both the young and the aged people: it is by looking at the life of the true friends of Jesus who are the saints.

But, among the saints, many of them seem to be far away from us: they lived at a different time of history, and in a far away country. So, we are glad when we can learn from a saint who lived close to us and in our times, how we should think and live like Jesus.

That is why I am very pleased to introduce you to the life of Brother André, a saint from Canada, who will be canonised in a few days, on October 17. Let us entrust our Eucharistic Crusade to this great saint who made so many miracles. He did a good job, welcoming the visitors at the college where he was stationed. Now let us beg him to carry on that job by watching over our Crusade.

*Father Dominique Boulet*

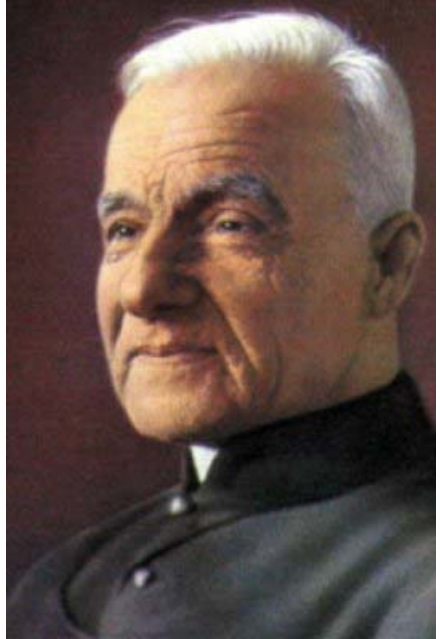
**\* On September 4<sup>th</sup>, I said Mass for the intentions of the Eucharistic Crusade in Canada.**

**\* Eucharistic Crusade in Canada: St. Pius X Priory, 905 Rang St. Mathieu E,**

## ST. BROTHER ANDRÉ OF MONTREAL

On October 17, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI will canonize Brother André and he will be known as St. Br. André of Montreal. Br. André lived a long life filled with suffering and love. He suffered with a stomach ailment all his life and he loved God and the saints. Br. André loved people too, but God and the saints were his dearest friends, especially St. Joseph, who worked all the wonderful miracles for him.

Alfred (André) was born in the tiny village of St. Grégoire d'Iberville, near Montreal, on August 9, 1845. He was the eighth of twelve children born to Isaac and Clothilde Bessette. His father was a wheelwright and his mother was a homemaker for the large family. Though they were poor, Mr. and Mme. Bessette accepted each of their children as a gift from God.



When the children became older they often took odd jobs in the village to help the family survive. The younger children would help their mother with the housework and the older boys would help their father with the woodcutting in the forest that was near their home. Poor Alfred longed to help his father but he could not eat solid foods, so he was weaker than his brothers and sisters.

The Bessette's were a happy family who loved music and loved to sing. But one day tragedy struck and a great sadness came upon the family. In February 1855, some neighbours came to the door and told Mme. Bessette that in the forest, a tree had fallen on her husband and crushed him to death! Poor Clothilde stood in shock! Not one to give up, the good woman worked to keep her family together, but the effort was too much and she came down with tuberculosis. Clothilde was forced to send her children to live with other relatives, but she kept little Alfred.

Alfred and his mother went to live with his Aunt Mary and Uncle Timothy Nadeau. After two years of fighting her disease, in the fall of 1857,

Mme. Bessette died. Little Alfred had just lost the dearest person in his life. Now Alfred found that prayer was his greatest comfort. He loved to meditate on the Passion of Jesus and to pray the Rosary, but he especially liked to pray to good St. Joseph.

As much as he tried, Alfred could not do the different jobs his Uncle Timothy expected him to do; he just didn't have the strength, or the health. Louis Ouimet, the mayor of St. Césaire, adopted Alfred when he was fifteen years old and he became a farmhand on the Ouimet farm. After one year of working on the farm, Alfred became a baker, a tinsmith, and a blacksmith, but he failed at all three jobs. The young lad even tried working in different parts of the United States. And from 1863 to 1867 Alfred learned to speak English. He returned to Quebec in 1867 and moved near St. Césaire.

Shortly after Alfred's return, his friend, Fr. Provencal introduced him to the Holy Cross Brothers who were running a school at St. Césaire. The good priest was convinced that Alfred had a vocation. But because of poor health and poor education, Alfred refused to join the brothers.

Finally, after about two years, Alfred joined the Holy Cross Novitiate in Montreal, taking the name of André. But after one year of happiness, Fr. Guy, the novice master, told Br. André that his future as a brother was very much in doubt. A few days later, Montreal's saintly Bishop Bourget visited

the Holy Cross Brothers. With hope in his heart, Br. André spoke to the bishop privately, pleading, ***"Bishop, please help me. I want so much to be a brother."***

The understanding bishop looked upon the worried brother saying, ***"Do not fear my son. You will be allowed to make your religious profession."***

On August 22, 1872, Br. André was able to make his vows. The superiors gave Br. Andre the job as porter for the community because he was gentle, pleasant, and charitable, and he could speak English. Besides being porter, Br. André did the laundry and sacristan work as well. Often, when delivering laundry to the student's homes or when going to the post office, Br. André learned of someone who was ill. He would visit the person, pray with him and rub him with St. Joseph's oil (oil taken from a lamp burning in front of St. Joseph's statue). Some of these people were cured



and before long, the brother was known as Good Br. André.

The miraculous statue of St. Joseph, blessed by pope St. Pius X

*(Continued on page9)*

## INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2010



St. Peter preaching to the people

### Daily offering

(To be recited every morning when you wake up)

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer Thee all my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of Thy Sacred Heart in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, and in reparation for my sins. I offer them particularly **for the missions and the conversion of the pagans.**

#### July 2010 Treasure Sheets

	Daily Off.	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrif.	Dec. Ros.	Visit Bl. S.	15 Min.	Good Example	Quantity
QC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ON	826	272	238	567	1526	4419	184	345	915	31

MB	122	23	19	77	122	122	22	122	122	4
SK	368	52	48	400	4529	2156	100	73	1462	13
AB	150	54	46	95	169	694	138	136	191	5
BC	384	122	76	88	485	1253	43	8	255	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1850</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>1227</b>	<b>6831</b>	<b>8644</b>	<b>487</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>2945</b>	<b>66</b>

## TREASURE CHART FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2010

Day	Daily Offering	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrifices	Decades of Rosary	Visits Bl. Sacr.	15 Minutes Silence	Good Example
1									
2									
3									
4									
5									
6									
7									
8									
9									
10									
11									
12									
13									
14									
15									
16									
<b>Total</b>									

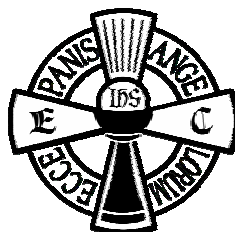
Note about sending your total to the Secretariat:

**Vancouver, BC:** give it to Mrs. Leung

**Wilmot, ON:** give it to Fr. Peter Scott

**Welwyn, SK:** give it to Mrs. Mailloux

**Winnipeg, MB:** give it to Fr. Gerard Rusak



**Other locations: Preferably, e-mail the total: [EucharisticCrusadeCDN@gmail.com](mailto:EucharisticCrusadeCDN@gmail.com)**

Mailing address:

Eucharistic Crusade 905 Rang St. Mathieu E, Shawinigan, QC G9N 6T5

## TREASURE CHART FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2010

Day	Daily Offering	Mass	Sacr. Com.	Spir. Com.	Sacrifices	Decades of Rosary	Visits Bl. Sacr.	15 Minutes Silence	Good Example
17									
18									
19									
20									
21									
22									
23									
24									
25									
26									
27									
28									
29									
30									
31									
Total									

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# October 2010

Total of the Month												
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To be send to the secretariat of the Eucharistic Crusade. See note on previous page.

## OCTOBER 2010

S	M	A	L	L	P	O	X	C	R	Y	P	T	S
E	A	L	F	R	E	D	Q	Z	P	O	P	E	A
L	V	O	W	S	Q	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C
C	B	I	S	H	O	P	Z	H	I	D	Z	X	R
A	Q	N	U	N	Z	X	P	R	I	E	S	T	I
R	Z	X	Q	X	Q	H	P	E	S	O	J	T	S
I	M	Q	B	Z	X	Z	O	M	E	R	C	Y	T
M	E	B	A	B	X	G	R	Q	Z	X	Q	Z	A
P	D	M	K	R	Z	O	T	P	R	A	Y	X	N
A	I	O	E	A	Q	D	E	J	E	S	U	S	Q
T	T	T	R	N	Z	X	R	L	E	P	A	H	C
T	A	M	E	D	A	L	S	N	O	V	I	C	E
Y	T	Z	X	R	O	S	A	R	Y	M	A	R	Y
D	E	P	R	E	S	S	I	O	N	P	O	O	R

DEPRESSION  
SACRISTAN  
SMALLPOX  
MEDITATE  
ST JOSEPH  
MIRACLES

MEDALS  
ROSARY  
PORTER  
CHAPEL  
ALFRED  
BISHOP

MARY  
VOWS  
TOMB  
JESUS  
POOR  
PRAY



**BR ANDRE  
CRUCIFIX  
NOVICE  
PATTY**

**MERCY  
PRIEST  
BAKER  
CRYPT**

**POPE  
GOD  
NUN  
HID**

*(... Continued from page 4)*

Around 1879, smallpox broke out at Holy Cross College in St. Laurent. The disease struck both the students and the religious. After some of them died, Br. André began to nurse the ill. Arriving at the college he knelt and prayed that the sick would be protected—not one more person died, and all the sick were cured.

As reports of Br. André's healing powers went around Montreal, more and more people travelled to Notre Dame College. This caused the parents of the students of Notre Dame College to panic because they thought that their sons would be in danger of catching the diseases of the sick. The Superiors ordered Br. André to stop receiving the sick. Br. André obeyed, but the sick people still kept coming. Then Br. André was ordered to receive his sick visitors at the trolley station across the street from the college.

For many years the Holy Cross authorities had tried to purchase some land on Mount Royal, across from Notre Dame College, with no success. But when Br. André and several other brothers and students planted medals on the property, in 1896, the Holy Cross Order was finally able to purchase some land on the mountain.

Br. André was given permission to put a statue of St. Joseph on the mountain. This was the beginning of a shrine to St. Joseph. André saved the nickels he earned from barbering and the alms he received from the sick for a future project that would honour St. Joseph. By the summer of 1904, he had collected \$200.00 and was given permission to build a small chapel in honour of St. Joseph.

Br. André was sixty years old at this time and he put all his efforts into the chapel project. The \$200.00 was used for basic materials and making an access road. When the money ran out, many of André's friends bailed him out with donations, week after week. On October 19, 1904 the first chapel was blessed.

The sick pilgrims continued coming to the college. So the authorities decided to send Br. André to New Brunswick. A group of religious begged the superiors to let André stay and a new plan was hatched. The chapel was enlarged and heated so that pilgrims could use the chapel, even in cold weather. By November 1908, the chapel was completed and it could hold up to two hundred people. During the next year, a restaurant, a religious article

shop, an office for Br. André, and a waiting room for the sick were completed. Now the college of Notre Dame would have peace.

Br. André was appointed guardian of the new shrine. At first, people came by the hundreds and then by the thousands. Br. André received thirty to forty people an hour. He greeted the visitor and listened to their sorrows. Often he would tell the sick person, ***“Rub yourself with a medal and with St. Joseph’s oil. Make a novena.”*** He used St. Joseph’s oil on men and boys, but he never touched a woman. The woman or someone else would have to apply the St. Joseph’s oil. Br. André cured thousands of sick people—canes and crutches left behind are a proof of these miracles.

In 1910, Fr. Clement was appointed to assist Br. André, especially by hearing the confessions of the pilgrims. In 1915, a huge stone crypt was built—the base of St. Joseph’s Oratory. Pilgrims came from all parts of Canada, the United States and Europe. They watched as the white walls of the oratory rose up towards the sky.

On special feast days when people came in crowds to the oratory, Br. André hid himself from public view. He took great pleasure in seeing St. Joseph honoured, instead of himself. But the greatest pleasure Br. André had was to bring sinners back to God. Knowing this, his close friends often brought to him some great sinner. Br. André would often take a crucifix and talk about the sufferings and Passion of Jesus and cause the sinner to realize that his sins had hurt Jesus. And he would say, ***“We do not insist enough on the mercy of God.”***

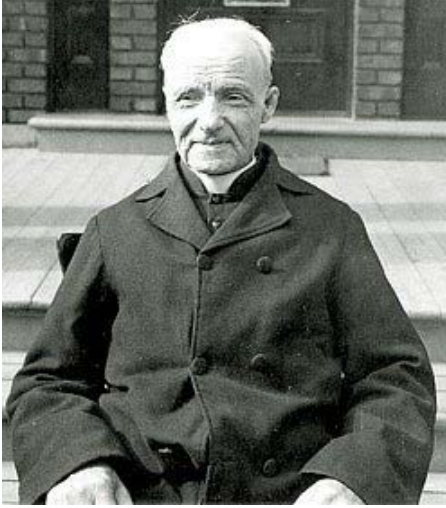
Br. André had angelic purity and knew that God was offended when women were not dressed properly. To a lady who complained of pains in her chest, but had a low neckline, he said, ***“It is surely not because your collar is too tight!”*** and to another lady who had a short dress he said, ***“Are you not afraid you will entangle yourself in your dress?”***

In 1931, the oratory had no roof and the work had to stop—it was the Depression of the 1930’s. People had no money, and many had no food. Of this Depression Br. André said, ***“The Depression is meant to teach the world a lesson. God is forgotten, many people curse God and do not pray, and churches are empty of worshippers. Economic conditions will change only when people pray more.”***

Br. André understood suffering, and he would be the first



one to console and heal an afflicted person. But he also liked to encourage people, ***“Be grateful to God for coming to you by trials, for you are very fortunate. If we only knew the value of suffering we would fall on our knees and ask it of God.”***



How did Br. André become so holy you might ask? St. Joseph and the Holy Ghost guided Br. André on the road to perfection. The good Brother was always reading and meditating on the Gospels. He learned that meditating on the sufferings of Jesus was the way to climb the ladder to Heaven. Br. André loved to read **“The Imitation of Christ”**—he had read it so often that he almost knew it by heart. And Br. André delighted in reading the **“Lives of the Saints”**.

Br. André had his imperfections too—he often lost his temper and would say, ***“I am not satisfied with myself; I have again been impatient. If the people could only realize that it is St. Joseph who cures; not me.”*** God allowed these imperfections to keep Br. André humble.

Because the money came in so slowly, in 1936 the Holy Cross authorities called a meeting to decide whether to complete the oratory or abandon it. Br. André was at the meeting and was surprised that the authorities had doubts about completing the oratory. To this André replied, ***“It’s not my work; it’s St. Joseph’s. Put a statue of St. Joseph in the middle of the building. If he wants a roof over his head, he’ll get it.”*** That very afternoon the Holy Cross authorities put a statue of St. Joseph in the unfinished oratory. Two months later they had enough money to continue building the oratory.

Even at ninety-one years old Br. André continued to show love and compassion to the sick and the suffering. But in December the old brother suffered an attack of acute gastritis and was taken to the hospital. Then in January 1937, Br. André had a stroke. He went into a coma and died on January 6, 1937.

Well over a million people came to Br. André’s wake and burial. For seven days the crowd filed past his wooden coffin to get a last look at the holy brother. People came from different parts of Canada and from Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island and Vermont.

Today Br. André’s body rests in a black granite tomb, in a little room behind the hall of vigil lights. Many people kneel there and pray and have

their prayers answered. In Heaven, as on earth, Br. André will step aside so that St. Joseph will receive praise and glory.

St. Br. André Pray for Us.      St. Joseph Pray for Us.

## **HOW MUCH DO YOU LOVE OUR LADY?**

### *Little Talks to Little People*

It's very nice to say that you love Our Lady, but how much do you love Our Lady? Do you love Our Lady enough to tell her that you will not commit any big sins and try hard not to commit any venial sins?

We all have big hopes and dreams. We all like to say we will do something but when the time comes that we can do that special something, we shy away, we make up excuses, we do something else!

Our Lady knows that we are weak. She knows that we all have big intentions, big hopes and dreams and that when the time comes to do this thing, we don't do it, or we do it very poorly.

Our Lady or Mary is our Mother. True, she is the Mother of Jesus, but Jesus gave us His Mother at the same time that He gave His Mother to St. John at the foot of the cross, when He was dying.

Mary is a very loving Mother and she loves it when we come to tell her all the happy and sad things that have happened to us during the day. She loves to hear us say thank-you to her for helping us through the day and for helping us especially when we were in trouble with temptation.

You see, you prove your love to Mary and Jesus when you ask them to help you in good times and in bad. And you prove your love to them especially when you do not sin—at least big sins, for we will all commit little sins, known as venial sins, until we are dead.

Let me tell you a little story. In the 1960's there was a little girl named Patty who tried to be good but she had one main fault that she could not overcome: that was getting up in the morning. Patty was in good health, she went to bed on time, but when 7:00 in the morning came around, her alarm clock would go off and she would not get up. The clock would ring for a while and then Patty would fall back to sleep. Month after month this would happen and her mother would wake her at 7:30 so she could say her prayers, wash, dress, eat and catch the bus for a long ride to school.

One day Sister Agnes told her class about Our Lady of Perpetual Help and gave them each a holy card. She told the children that Our Lady of Perpetual Help was very powerful and could help them with anything. Patty listened to Sister Agnes and that night she prayed to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Patty told Our Lady that she would not eat candies for a whole month if She would help her to get up in the morning. After praying to Our Lady for two weeks, Patty found that she could get up in the morning. And of course the first thing she did when she got up was to say thank-you to Our Lady and mark the

sacrifice down on her Eucharistic Crusade Treasure Sheet. You can be sure that Our Lady smiled down on little Patty and that she would be there to help Patty in the future. You too can do like Patty did and Our Lady will help you as well.