

# Canonization of Brother André

Brother André founded Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montréal, He is its soul, it is he who gives inspiration and meaning to this legacy which elicits such enthusiasm here in Canada, and increasingly around the world. The story of the shrine is still being written and it is our great pleasure to be its authors and eye witnesses.



Brother André was born Alfred Bessette on August 9, 1845. In 1870, he presented himself as a candidate in the novitiate of Congregation of Holy Cross in Montréal. Because of his weak health, his superiors had doubts concerning his religious vocation. This is ironic as Brother André is today credited with the healing of the sick and this aspect of his life is noted as contributing towards his canonization.

Brother André and Narcisse Cantin met in 1910 in Montréal. Brother André spoke about his desire to build an oratory in honour of Saint Joseph, the patron saint of Canada, while Narcisse explained his plans for the City of St. Joseph.

Brother André first visited St. Joseph October 22, 1917 and thereafter visited several times as a guest of Narcisse Cantin.

**Learn about Brother André's life:**

[http://www.saint-joseph.org/en\\_1078\\_index.php](http://www.saint-joseph.org/en_1078_index.php)

**Learn about the Canonization of Brother André and associated events:**

[http://www.saint-joseph.org/en\\_1123\\_index.php](http://www.saint-joseph.org/en_1123_index.php)



**October 17, 2010**  
**The Vatican**