

MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

Brothers of Holy Cross –Midwest Province - P.O. Box 460 – Notre Dame, Indiana 46556-0460

September 22, 2010

Holy Cross Communities of Northeast Ohio Celebrated Our Lady of Sorrows Feast

The Holy Cross communities of Northeast Ohio celebrated the Patronal Feast of the Congregation, Our Lady of Sorrows, at [Mother of Sorrows Church](#) in [Peninsula](#), Ohio, on Sunday, Sept. 12. **John Blazek** was the celebrant at the Mass, and music was prepared by Dan Kane and Ken Kane. James Spooner coordinated the event.

A dinner in the parish hall, catered by Moe's Catering, followed the Mass. Eighteen brothers and priests from Archbishop Hoban High School in Akron, St. Edward High School in Lakewood and Gilmour Academy in Gates Mills attended the event.

Mother of Sorrows is a quaint, historic church in the Village of Peninsula. The pastor, the Rev. John Terzano, was most gracious in welcoming the community.



Solemnity of Our Lady of Sorrows Celebrated

On September 15, Holy Cross Priests, Brothers and Sisters celebrated the Solemnity of Our Lady of Sorrows at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame. Our Lady of Sorrows is the Patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Rev. David Tyson, Provincial of the Indiana Province of Priests and Brothers was the principal celebrant and homilist. Music for the Mass was sung by the Notre Dame Women's Liturgical Choir. Following Mass a dinner was hosted by Moreau Seminary for the Holy Cross religious.



Visit both the homepage for a slideshow and the Current Events page for more pictures at:



<http://www.brothersofholycross.com/>

Hoban Installs Extraordinary Ministers



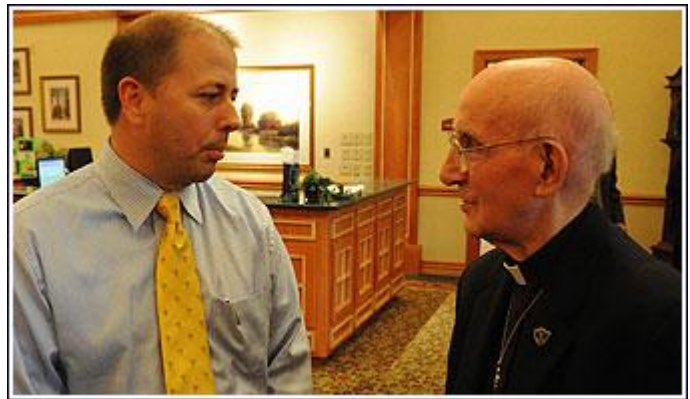
At the first all-school Mass of the year, 49 seniors from Akron's Archbishop Hoban High School were installed as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The Mass was celebrated on the Patronal Feast of the Congregation, Our Lady of Sorrows, Sept. 15. Having received theological training with the Diocese of Cleveland, these

students will help distribute Holy Communion at Hoban Masses for the remainder of the year and rotate assignments at the before-school Masses. Upon installation at their home parishes, they may minister there as well. The Rev. David Durkee, pastor of Queen of Heaven parish in Green, Ohio, was the celebrant.

Brother Joseph LeBon

Holy Cross Village Holds a Reception for Steve Kastner

Holy Cross Village residents bid farewell to Steve Kastner, President and CEO of the Village for the past 5 years on Monday, September 21. By the end of the month Steve will be Florida bound about to begin his new work with Westminster Communities of Florida in Bradenton, FL. Steve looks forward to being close to **Br. William Geenen** in Sarasota, FL. A number of Brothers from Holy Cross Village and the South Bend area attended the reception at Andre Place. Steve and his wife plan to attend the canonization of Blessed **Brother Andre Bessette, C.S.C.** October 17.



Holy Trinity Concludes Centennial Year With Mass.



On Thursday, September 30, Holy Trinity High School, Chicago, will conclude their centennial year with a Mass celebrated at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church by Francis Cardinal George, Archbishop of Chicago at 2:00 P.M. (CST). Following the Mass there will be a reception at the school for all. No RSVP is required for the Mass but for the reception, please RSVP to Jesse Buedia, 773-278-4212 or at jbuendia@holytrinity-hs.org. Brothers from the South Bend area requiring transportation should contact **Br. Robert Fillmore** at 210-5324.

CSC Montreal Dinner Invitation



From F. Jean-Pierre Aumont for the canonization of Brother André at Montreal: Here is an invitation and information about a CSC Dinner for those attending the October 30th celebration in Montreal for Br Andre.

[http://www.brothersofholycross.com/MIDMID/AndreDinner2010/Invitation letter \(meal OSJ 30th October 2010\).pdf](http://www.brothersofholycross.com/MIDMID/AndreDinner2010/Invitation%20letter%20(meal%20OSJ%2030th%20October%202010).pdf)

[http://www.brothersofholycross.com/MIDMID/AndreDinner2010/Letter to CSC major superiors.pdf](http://www.brothersofholycross.com/MIDMID/AndreDinner2010/Letter%20to%20CSC%20major%20superiors.pdf)

Blessed Br. Andre Featured in Columbia Magazine

Blessed Brother Andre is featured in the September issue of the Knights of Columbus *Columbia Magazine*. The Knights have been a major supporter of the Brothers of Holy Cross ministries in the Midwest Province over the years. Knights have supported Father Gibault School for Boys in Terre Haute, IN and Holy Cross Children's Services (formerly Boysville of Michigan) in Macon, MI. Below is the link to the article in *Columbia Magazine*.

http://www.kofc.org/un/eb/en/columbia/detail/2010_09_bessette.html

St. Joseph's Humble Servant

Brother André Bessette of Montreal will soon become the first Canadian-born male saint.



A statue of Blessed André Bessette stands outside of St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal on the northern slope of Mount Royal. Brother André will become the first Canadian-born male saint on Oct. 17. (Photo by Stéphane Larivière)

In October 1921, a Columbia article titled "The 'Miracle Man' of Mount Royal" noted that "Knights of Columbus, 10,000 strong, made a pilgrimage to the Crypt of St. Joseph" earlier that year. The article, which praised the saintliness of the "humble lay brother" known as Frère André, prophetically concluded with these words: "Some day this church on the mountainside, successor to the little wooden oratory of Frère André, will be the glorious basilica of St. Joseph, and the little miracle man of Mount Royal will probably be enshrined as the saint which every soul in Quebec believes him to be."

Now, nearly 90 years later, Brother André Bessette will become the first Canadian-born male saint when he is canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 17, 2010.

Brother André shared a close connection with the Knights of Columbus during his lifetime, and he serves as a model for Knights today as they grow in charity and devote themselves more closely to St. Joseph.

BROTHERS IN SPIRIT

Brother André was born Alfred Bessette on Aug. 9, 1845, in Saint-Grégoire d'Iberville, Quebec. He was the ninth of 13 children and suffered from many health ailments during his youth. Amid these periods of sickness, Alfred's mother instilled in him a devotion to Jesus, Mary and Joseph — and he became the subject of misunderstanding and ridicule. At the age of nine, Alfred lost his father to a work-related accident. His mother died three years later of tuberculosis. Separated from his brothers and sisters, Alfred began living with an aunt and uncle, Timothée and Marie-Rosalie Nadeau of Saint-Césaire.

Although they probably never met, Brother André and the Knights' founder, Father Michael J. McGivney, shared much in common as spiritual brothers. Both were born in the mid-19th century to poor families; both suffered from fragile health throughout their lives; and both devoted themselves to the poor and the needy. Young Alfred Bessette even spent some time in New England states including Connecticut, where he labored in a textile mill before returning to Canada in 1867. A year later, Michael McGivney likewise traveled from Connecticut to Quebec, where he entered the Seminary of Saint-Hyacinthe, located about 40 miles east of what would become the site of St. Joseph's Oratory on Mount Royal.

Alfred entered the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Montreal on Dec. 27, 1870. His permanent presence in this teaching community seemed far from certain, especially given his frail health and lack of formal education. The latter was evident in the tasks he was given. Upon entering the community, Brother André became the doorman of Notre Dame College and also served as a nurse, barber, caretaker and even gravedigger.

Through his duties at the school, Brother André was asked to receive visitors, including many sick people seeking solace and help. Françoise Deroy-Pineau wrote in her biography, *Frère André, un saint parmi nous* (Brother André, A Saint Among Us), "His job as a light maintenance man put him in charge of handling the oil that burned in front of the altar and certain statues, especially the statue of St. Joseph." A symbol of faith and prayer when it is used by the sick, this oil would come to play a significant role in Brother André's work. Like the St. Joseph

medals that he carried, the oil often accompanied the healings and the miracles that Brother André attributed to St. Joseph's intercession.

As word spread of a healing religious figure at Notre Dame College, people began to visit Brother André. At first, he greeted them at the school, which caused irritation among his colleagues and the parents of students there. This, in turn, gave rise to a spirited opposition that made Brother André the target of many jeers. Some people began calling him a "crazy old man," a "charlatan" or even the "oily brother."



Brother André stands with a delegation of the Knights of Columbus, including then-Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty (front left), during a K of C pilgrimage to the Crypt of St. Joseph's Oratory in April 1921. (Photo courtesy of St. Joseph's Oratory Archives)

In 1895, when a tramway line was constructed in front of Notre Dame, at the base of Mount-Royal, and a shelter was built to receive travelers, Brother André obtained permission to greet the sick people who arrived at the station. According to one biographer, Micheline Lachance, he began greeting as many as 300 visitors per day. In thanksgiving for the many favors obtained through St. Joseph's intercession, Brother André began forming a plan to build an oratory dedicated to the earthly father of Jesus.

The gifts he received from many of his grateful visitors allowed Brother André to erect a wooden chapel on Mount Royal in 1904. Several expansion projects followed. Construction of the "Crypt," the first phase of the oratory, began in 1915, but Brother André encountered numerous difficulties while planning future expansions. The economic crisis caused by the stock market crash of 1929 forced

the worksite to close from 1931-37. Despite this and other obstacles, Brother André remained steadfast in his vision.

Brother André died on Jan. 6, 1937, without seeing the oratory complete. The building was not finished until 1967, but at the time of Brother André's death 30 years earlier, his work was already known beyond the borders of Quebec and Canada.

He was beatified May 23, 1982, by Pope John Paul II, and nearly 2 million people visit St. Joseph's Oratory each year.

SONS OF BROTHER ANDRÉ

Father Jean-Guy Dubuc, a priest of the Diocese of Montreal, is one of many writers who have discussed Brother André's timidity and modesty. In his book *Brother Andre: Friend of the Suffering, Apostle of St. Joseph*, he noted that Brother André "hated to be photographed and was loath to be interviewed."

There were, however, some notable exceptions. In her biography of Brother André, Deroy-Pineau wrote that the friar liked to be photographed with his friends, among whom she lists the Knights of Columbus.

On April 16, 1923, the daily Montreal newspaper *La Presse* published a large group photo of more than 300 members of Lafontaine Council 1356 who were visiting the Crypt of St. Joseph on pilgrimage. Father Édouard Laurin, who gave the homily during the Mass, noted that "the spirit of faith is lacking in a large number of families that have nonetheless received religious instruction." He urged the Knights to be worthy of their name, to pray, to lead by example and, if necessary, to bring non-believers back to the faith by asking St. Joseph to inspire in them the same spirit of conviction experienced by the child Jesus while under his care.

Between 1916 and 1935, there were no fewer than 11 K of C pilgrimages that originated from as close as Quebec and as far away as California. One entry in the oratory archives notes a "visit of the Knights of Columbus" on Aug. 8, 1923. "Twelve buses and more than 200 automobiles brought [the Knights] to the ceremony at 3 p.m. Veneration of the relic went on uninterrupted from 3:30 to 5:30."

Knights today are as close to Brother André as they were nearly a century ago. At the Order's 128th Supreme Convention, held Aug. 3-5 in Washington, D.C.,

delegates adopted a resolution in honor of Brother André's canonization. The resolution read, in part, that "Knights of Columbus will learn from Brother André and from St. Joseph what it is to care for Jesus through acts of charity for the sick and the afflicted" and that Knights "will honor the vision of Brother André through a commitment to charity, unity and fraternity."

During a homily at the oratory on the feast of St. Joseph, March 19, Archbishop André Gaumond of Sherbrooke, Quebec, spoke of St. Joseph as "the quiet man, while in today's society we have all become very talkative." The archbishop, who is a member of St-Pamphile (Quebec) Council 3075, added, "St. Joseph understands his historic mission by depending on faith."

These traits found in St. Joseph are mirrored in the personality of Brother André and in the work performed by the Knights of Columbus. More often than not, these works of faith are accomplished discreetly and far away from the public eye. Brother André was "a man who distinguished himself by his fraternal hospitality," wrote Holy Cross Father Jean-Guy Vincent in a recent article. "Throughout his life, he welcomed all kinds of suffering people, and he showed them great compassion. ... Brother André was an active witness, a welcoming host, a man of compassion, a man of prayer, a builder and unifier of people," added Father Vincent, who is a member of Pointe Claire (Quebec) Council 4832.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul wrote, "If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing" (1 Cor 13:3). The compassion of Brother André was a living expression of this virtue of charity, which is also the first principle of the Knights of Columbus. The man who made Montreal the worldwide capital of devotion to St. Joseph embodied, even while he was living, this civilization of love that we are called to embrace each day.

Marc Nadeau is the grand knight of Notre-Dame-du-Perpétuel-Secours Council 9825 in Sherbrooke, Quebec, and works in the field of communications and public affairs.

Link to K of C article:

<http://issuu.com/columbia-magazine/docs/columbiasep10en?mode=embed&layout=http%3A%2F%2Fskin.issuu.com%2Fv%2Fflight%2Flayout.xml&showFlipBtn=true>

All That's Left Is for the Grass to Grow

The St. Joseph Cemetery Improvement Project is complete except for the grass to grow. Seed has been planted, and within a couple of weeks signs of growth should be seen. By the middle of next summer the cemetery will look like new.



Holy Cross Ordos Available

Yes, it's Ordo time. Please let me know how many ordos you would like to order for your province/district/vicariate. Or, please advise members of your province/district/vicariate that the 2011 CSC Ordo may be ordered by contacting me at:

Peter D. Rocca, c.s.c.
409 Moreau Seminary
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, IN 46556

Email: procca@nd.edu

The cost of the Ordo remains at \$10 (USA). Checks should be made out to:
Congregation of Holy Cross.

Thank you. I look forward to hearing from you or from members of your province/district/vicariate.

In Holy Cross,

Peter Rocca, c.s.c.
Editor, Holy Cross Ordo

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