

# MIDWEST – MIDWEEK

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

October 20, 2010



Saint André  
Bessette

## André Quotes

**Father Richard V. Warner**  
Superior General  
Congregation of Holy Cross  
Rome, Italy

“For the Congregation of Holy Cross both in the South Bend area and throughout the world, the Canonization of Saint André Bessette is a sacred moment in the history of the Congregation of Holy Cross. This simple and saintly man, struggled through an early life of poverty and deprivation, after becoming an orphan at the age of thirteen, until with persistence he was accepted as a Holy Cross brother. His great devotion to St. Joseph led him to accomplish what was thought to be impossible – beginning the construction of a great shrine to St. Joseph in Montreal, Canada. Through his pastoral attention to those who sought his intercession for spiritual and physical challenges, many people were cured by the “Miracle Man of Montreal.” Over one million people attended his funeral, and

today, more than two million pilgrims visit St. Joseph Oratory each year. We invite our colleagues and friends to join us in our joy as we celebrate this extraordinary moment in the life of our Congregation.

**Rev. David Tyson**

Provincial

Indiana Province of Priests and Brothers

Notre Dame, Indiana

“We are honored and moved beyond words at Brother André’s formal recognition as a saint, not only because this immensely humble man is the Congregation’s first recognized saint, but because he is such an extraordinary example for every Catholic of every age. Not for him the trappings of power and status, of money and prestige; he was famous first as a ferociously hard worker at the high school where he served his whole life; he simply did everything and anything that was needed, from cleaning the floors to fixing shoes, from doing students’ laundry to cutting hair. What an example of prayer in action, of active service to others as the most eloquent and powerful prayer of all! And that is the essence of the Congregation of Holy Cross – we serve the Christ in every being, with our hands and hearts and souls, with all our might.”

**Brother Chester Freel**

Provincial

Midwest Province of Brothers

Notre Dame, Indiana

“Throughout our 190 years of existence, the Brothers of Holy Cross have demonstrated their love for God by doing His work simply and humbly. Today, at this canonization ceremony, I am very excited and proud that one of our own, Brother André Bessette CSC was canonized as the first Saint of the Congregation of Holy Cross. Like all of us, St. André lived a simple life, followed his vows, and performed the tasks that were given to him by the Congregation. His life’s work was to be the doorkeeper and porter for Notre Dame College in Quebec. He performed this work with such devotion and grace that people began to come to the college just to visit Br. André. He would greet them with friendship and anoint them with oil from the chapel lamp which always burned before Saint Joseph’s statue. Then he would pray that Saint Joseph intercede for his visitors. As time went on, many miraculous healings were attributed to the friendly doorkeeper, but Brother André was always clear that the credit be given to St Joseph.

Now with his canonization, we can pray directly to Saint André, CSC of Montreal, for he demonstrated through consistent acts of hospitality and constant attention to prayer that Sainthood can be found in living out the two greatest Commandments: “Love God above all else and love thy neighbor as thyself.” In this way Brother André serves as a role model to all seeking holiness. And as members of the same religious community, we pray that the witness of Brother André’s life, his holiness, and his trust in the intercession of St. Joseph, will continue to be a source of inspiration and affirmation, as we follow in his footsteps as consecrated religious of the Congregation of Holy Cross.”



## Biographical Information

**Brother André Bessette**, C.S.C, a doorkeeper whose ministry to the sick led him to be called the “Miracle Man of Montreal” will become the first saint of the Congregation of Holy Cross when Pope Benedict XVI canonizes him in St. Peter’s Square on October 17, 2010.

Born Alfred Bessette to Isaac and Clothilde Besette on August 9, 1845, in Montreal, Brother André entered Holy Cross in 1870. He worked as a porter at Notre Dame College a school run by the Congregation of Holy Cross and soon began to earn a reputation as a healer and miracle worker. Bessette’s biographers

recount tales of crippled rheumatics healed and fever-stricken schoolboys made suddenly well, often aided by “Saint Joseph’s oil,” which Bessette rubbed on wounds and sick limbs after burning it before statue of the patron saint of his religious order.

Compassion for the suffering and devotion to Saint Joseph led Brother André to a life comforting those in greatest need. Pope John Paul II said of him, “We venerate in Blessed Brother André Bessette a man of prayer and a friend of the poor, a truly astonishing man.... In each age the Holy Spirit raises up such humble witnesses of the Gospel, who turn things topsy-turvy.”

More than seventy years after Brother André’s death in 1937, millions of pilgrims travel each year to Saint Joseph’s Oratory, which he founded in Montreal in 1904. Brother André was declared Venerable by the Catholic Church in 1978 (the first of three steps toward sainthood), and Blessed in 1982 (the second step). Also to be canonized on Oct. 17 are five other Blessed:

**Blessed Mary MacKillop**, 1842-1909, Australia’s first saint and founder of the Sisters of Saint Joseph of the Sacred Heart.

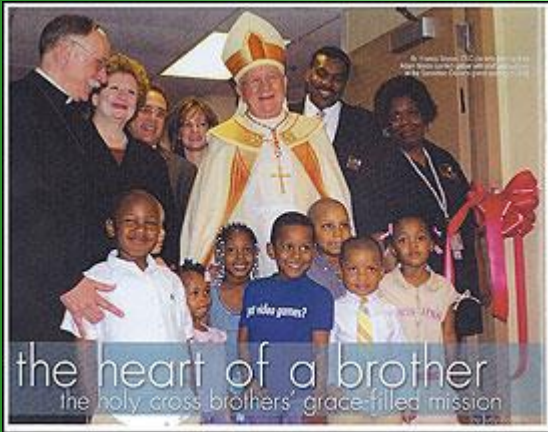
**Blessed Stanislaw Soltys Kazimierczyk**, a Polish-born member of the Canons Regular of the Lateran, who lived 1433-1489. He was famous as a preacher and confessor.

**Blessed Juana Josefa Cipitria Barriola** of Spain. She died in 1912 and was the founder of the Daughters of Jesus.

**Blessed Giulia Salzano**, the Italian founder of the Catechetical Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus; she died in 1929.

**Blessed Camilla Battista Varano**, an Italian Poor Clare who lived 1458-1524.

See Site’s home page: [www.brothersofholycross.com](http://www.brothersofholycross.com) for a few other Rome pictures.



## Samaritan Center

*“Br. (Francis) Boylan is at the heart of the Holy Cross Brothers’ grace-filled mission . . .”*

View article at:

<http://www.legatusmagazine.org/?p=3504>

<b>View</b>	<b>Website</b>	<b>at:</b>	<b>View</b>	<b>Midwest-Midweek</b>	<b>at:</b>
<a href="http://www.brothersofholycross.com">www.brothersofholycross.com</a>			<a href="http://www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm">http://www.brothersofholycross.com/midmid.htm</a>		

Please have material to **Br. Charles McBride** by Monday of each week *Midwest-Midweek* is published: [cmcbride@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:cmcbride@brothersofholycross.com)  
For technical problems or errors please contact: **Br. Richard Johnson** at [rjohnson@brothersofholycross.com](mailto:rjohnson@brothersofholycross.com)