

January 6, 2023

Good Morning All,

Fr. Gillespie is on Retreat. No Mass, First Friday Adoration or Confession today. No Fish Fry or movie tonight. Knights of Columbus will resume on February 3rd. Put it on your calendar now!

Please see attached information for contacting the Senate Education committee about Education Scholarship Accounts that would benefit our school. Your help is greatly appreciated.

***Beginning next weekend, Fr. Bill Garrott, will be visiting the Parish and will be doing the Homily at the Masses. On Sunday evening he will begin his Parish Mission. It will begin with a Rosary at 6:30 each evening followed by 3 presentations: The Father's Blessing; The Son's Blessing, The Spirit's Power. Fr. Garrott will also have a Mass on Monday morning (Jan 9) at 8:30 am and at the end of the evening presentations he will be available for confessions. Please note: These presentations will not be recorded. Please come to this very special event.***

1. Today's Readings: [Christmas Weekday | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus:

What would draw over a million people to pay their respects at the death of a simple doorman, a Catholic brother in the Holy Cross order? It may have been his great faith and humility, his abiding hope in St. Joseph or that God used him to become one of the greatest healers the Church has ever seen. St. Andre Bessette's confident prayers to St. Joseph and the oil that burnt by the altar of St. Joseph in the Oratory are credited with healing over 10,000+ people in his lifetime. Miracles still continue.

3. Quotes of the Day:

~ "Do not see to have these trials lifted from you. Instead, ask for the grace to bear them well."

~ "Receive Holy Communion often. Our Lord cannot refuse you anything when He is there in your heart. You will find strength and solace in this act."

~ "There is so little distance between heaven and earth that God always hears us. Nothing but a thin veil separates us from God."

Daily Parish Communication

For those of you who might like to watch the St. Andre Bessette movie, here is the link: [Brother Andre - YouTube](#)

***St. Joseph, Pray for Us!***

***St. Andre Bessette, Pray for Us!***

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## **New legislative session kicks off with school choice**

The beginning of the year marks the start of a new legislative session in the Palmetto State. We are thankful that the S.C. General Assembly has already prioritized school choice and other education initiatives in the first week of 2023.

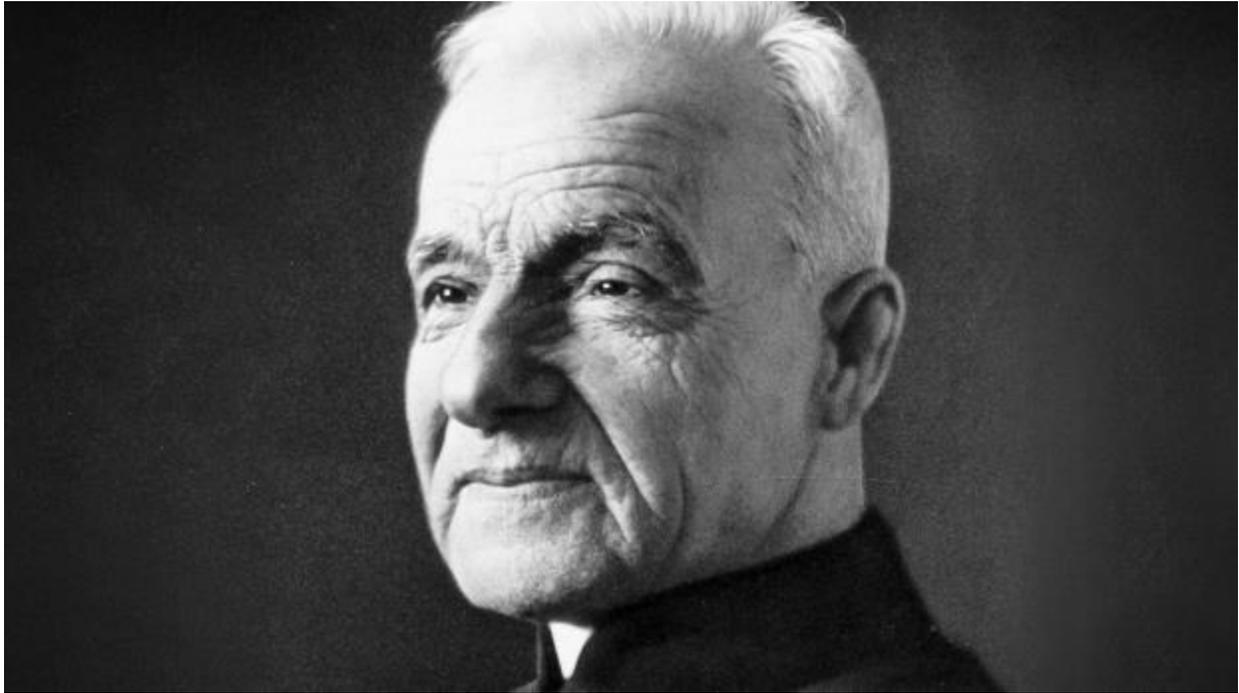
The Senate Education Committee is scheduled for a hearing to discuss Education Scholarship Accounts (ESAs) on Thursday, Jan. 12. ESAs provide parents with the ability and resources to choose the best learning environment for their children.

A quality education is the right of every child and has been promoted consistently, as a core tenant of parental rights, in Church teaching. Last year, similar legislation was just shy of the votes needed to pass through the General Assembly. With your support, we can make ESAs a reality this session!

**Please use the link below to send a letter of support for ESAs to the Senate Education Committee: <https://bit.ly/3QdNV90>.**

For questions, please contact [advocacy@charlestdiocese.org](mailto:advocacy@charlestdiocese.org).

## Saint Andre Bessette: The miracle man of Montreal



*How a sickly, uneducated man built one of the largest churches in North America and healed thousands through the intercession of Saint Joseph*

Perched above Montreal in Canada, Saint Joseph's Oratory stands proudly over the horizon. It is a monolith, but a beautiful one, with its famous green copper dome serving as a landmark of the French-Canadian city. It is a church, noticeably so in architecture, and an icon of New World faith and persistence. This isn't because the Oratory is one of the largest churches in North America, but because it was the work of one of the smallest saints. Saint Andre of Montreal, or Brother Andre as his brothers in the Congregation of Holy Cross lovingly call him, is to thank for this icon of Canadian Catholicism. This is his story.

### **The making of a brother**

Andre was born into a simple family. He was not, by any imagination, a wealthy man. His father was a carpenter who provided for eight children (he had fathered

12, but four had not grown past infancy). At his birth, it seemed as though Andre himself might have a short earthly life. He was born very sickly and given an emergency baptism as he entered the world. Though he lived to be 91, Andre never quite grew out of his sickliness – for the entirety of his life, he was always frail.

As a result of his family's simple means and his weak health, Andre never grew much in terms of his education. He received schooling from his mother until her death when he was 12, three years after the death of his father. Young, weak, and orphaned, Andre grew in faith and heart, and desired to enter religious life. At first, it seemed as though his lack of education would keep him from a religious vocation. His parish priest intervened, however, sending Andre to the Congregation of Holy Cross with a note that read, "I am sending you a saint." At the age of 28, Andre made final vows with the Congregation and fulfilled his dream of becoming a brother.

### ***Ite ad Joseph***

The Congregation of Holy Cross is primarily an educative order, and so Brother Andre was stationed at a school in Montreal. Due to his lack of education, he was unable to serve as a teacher. Instead, Brother Andre worked as a doorman, keeping clean the entrance of the school, providing hospitality for teachers and students as they entered, and staring out the window to a plot of land opposite the schoolhouse. He dreamed of a day when that land might hold a shrine to Saint Joseph.

Brother Andre dreamed this because he held a very special love for the earthly father of Jesus, and also because he believed Saint Joseph did not receive enough recognition or veneration. To Brother Andre, Saint Joseph was an icon of masculinity, courage, and love for the son of God. However, it seemed that veneration was only ever shown to two members of the Holy Family. Brother Andre hoped to expand recognition to include the husband of Mary and the foster father of Jesus.

Eventually, Brother Andre convinced the provincial to buy the land opposite the school, where he was permitted to build a small chapel in honor of St. Joseph. That

chapel wasn't enough for Brother Andre, however. It only had space enough for a handful of people. So, Brother Andre began fundraising for a massive church – a shrine which would become the largest church in North America at the time of its completion. In 1924, the St. Joseph's Oratory was completed, and thousands of pilgrims began to come annually to venerate Saint Joseph and seek his intercession. They came also to meet with Brother Andre – for the doorkeeper had created quite a commotion with a reputation as a miracle man.

### **The ministry of miracles**

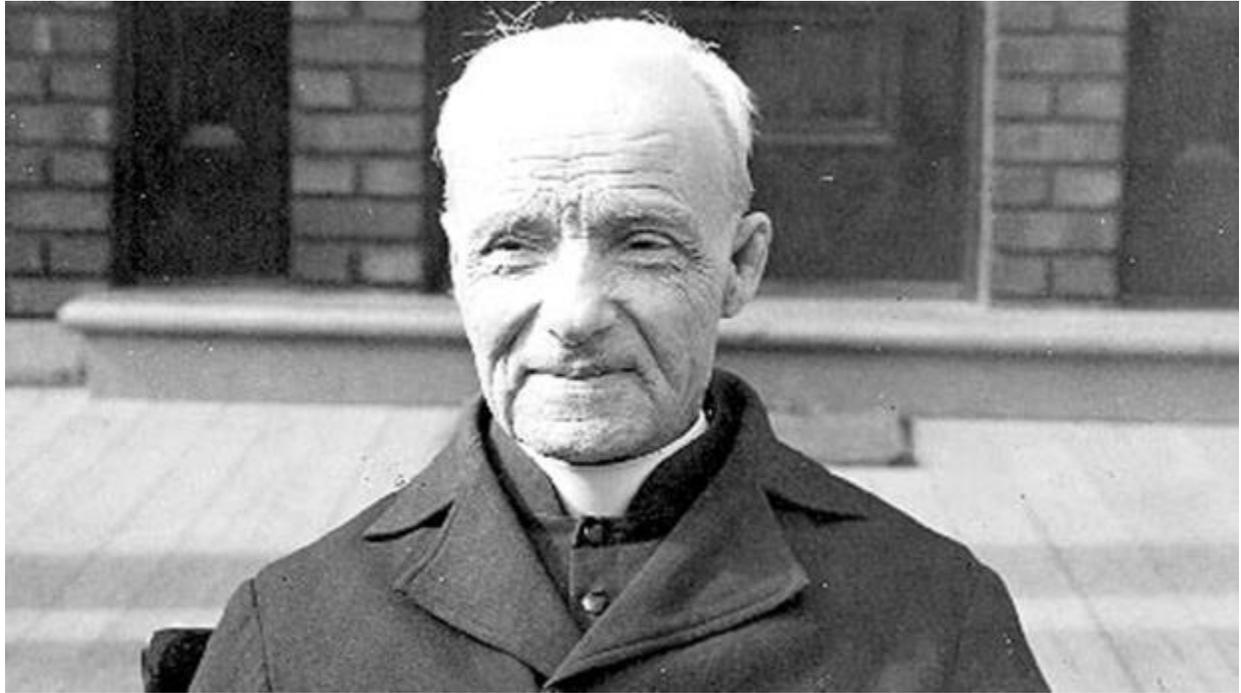
It began small, with his ministry as a doorkeeper. As Brother Andre would interact with the students and teachers, he learned about their problems: illnesses, worries, family stresses. He would pray for them and instruct them to seek the intercession of Saint Joseph. Slowly, people began to realize that, when Brother Andre prayed for a person in need and directed them to Saint Joseph, they got better. Word spread, and more and more people began to seek out Brother Andre and the miracles that followed him. As a result, Brother Andre's superior allowed him to hold "office hours," times when the faithful in need could visit Brother Andre at the Oratory and ask for his prayers and advice. To this day, St. Joseph's Oratory displays the hundreds of crutches left by those healed through the intercession of Brother Andre and Saint Joseph.

### **Saint Andre of Montreal**

When Brother Andre died at the age of 91, more than a million people flocked to St. Joseph's Oratory to pay their respects. The miracle man of Montreal was so beloved that these men, women, and children braved Canadian winter weather for hours simply to spend some final moments with the body of the saint. His remains were placed permanently in the Lower Basilica of the Oratory, so that pilgrims can pay their respects and seek his intercession to this day. Beatified by St. John Paul II in 1982, and canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010, Brother Andre became the first canonized saint in the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Perhaps what is most beautiful about Saint Andre's story is his incredible humility. The simple man sought his ministry not for himself, but for his love for Saint Joseph.

It was by the path of his inspiring veneration of Jesus' father on earth that Christ chose to raise Andre to the altars. As a result, Brother Andre encourages us to this day to "*Ite ad Joseph*" – Go to Joseph.



*The Canadian saint may be one of the greatest healers the Church has ever seen.*



Some of the crutches discarded after a miraculous healing through the intercession of Blessed Andre Bessette at the St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal.

Even after his death in 1937, people continued to report cures (and still do today). Author Patricia Treece writes about one such miracle for *Catholic Exchange*.

*Flash forward to 1954: Joe Audino began having health problems. By 1957 they had intensified. By the next year, 1958, the advanced form of reticulum cell sarcoma was throughout his body. Radiation could no longer*

*keep pace with the cancer. Joe was face-to-face with death, his diagnosis “terminal” and his death expected within thirty days. He was in too much pain to make a confession or receive Communion, he says. He simply lay hopelessly in bed, too weak to walk, with a football-size liver. In his troubles he thought of Br. André. And no matter how bad he felt, he never stopped praying for Br. André’s help. “I knew he’d be able to help me,” he says. He consented to an experimental treatment that never helped anyone else. But shortly after, he was cancer free. His doctor Philip Rubin, chairman of radiation therapy at the University of Rochester Cancer Center, says, “There is no clear scientific explanation for his cure.”*

St. André Bessette was a simple man, with a simple faith, a “mustard-seed faith” which could move mountains. He knew in his heart God could heal people and perform miracles, never doubting the power of God.

With a faith like his, nothing was impossible.

*Source: aleteia.org*