

## SERVANTS OF THE CROSS †

# THE NEW WINE

WINTER 2011 NEWSLETTER

COST: A SMILE

### **WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN**

*Sr. Vicki Wright*

I had the great honour and privilege of being able to go to Rome with Sr. Melinda in October for the canonization of St. Brother André Bessette of Montreal.

#### **Saint Who?**

When preparing for the canonization, I didn't truly know what to expect because although I knew that there were five others being canonized, I didn't really know any of them except St. André. As we met people who were there for the other saints, we got to know these saints through their devotion and vice versa. And I was able to truly celebrate the canonization of not just the one I knew about, but of all six saints. The six saints canonized on October 17th, 2010 were: André Bessette (Canadian), Mary of the Cross MacKillop (Australia's first saint), Stanislaw Soltys (Polish), Cándida María de Jesús Cipitria y Barriola (Spanish), Giulia Salzano (Italian), and Battista Camilla Da Varano (Italian).

#### **Canonization Day**

On the day of the canonization, there was an atmosphere of excitement and camaraderie, starting even in line to get into St. Peter's Square. We arrived early and there were several hundred people in line. Once we were allowed into the Square, we were able to get great seats near the front, sitting with a delegation from Catholic Christian Outreach, a Canadian university campus ministry. There was a lot of cheering and flag-waving before the canonization Mass began. The Australians were a much more numerous and enthusiastic group than the Canadians were! Once the Mass began, a calm and a



reverence came over the crowd in St. Peter's Square. When Pope Benedict XVI was speaking of St. André, he concluded with the words: "May we, following his example, search for God with simplicity to discover Him always present in the core of our lives! May the example of Brother André inspire Canadian Christian life!" In that moment, I felt proud to be Canadian. St. André's example of simplicity shown in his humility

and love for all who came to see him is inspiring to me. When the first-class relics of the saints were processed in after their canonization, it seemed to me that they had joined us in the celebration. As we left St. Peter's Square, I had to smile because a musician at a sidewalk café was playing *When the Saints Go Marching In*. These six saints were truly marching with us!

#### **St. André Carried His Cross**

The following day, there was a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Church of Sant'Andrea della Valle in Rome. Several hundred people from Canada, the United States, and around the world all came together in unity to celebrate our beloved St. André. There was an atmosphere of celebration, of unity, of reverence, and of inspiration that culminated in a spontaneous standing ovation for St. André. Cardinal Turcotte, the Archbishop of Montreal, presided, reminding us of something that St. André often said, "Don't ask God to remove your trials, but rather to give you the strength to endure them." St. André carried his cross with much love and radiated that love to all those that he met.

St. Brother André Bessette of Montreal, pray for us.

*Please see the Companions of the Cross Winter newsletter for Sr. Melinda's account.*

[www.companionscross.org/news/2011/2011.htm](http://www.companionscross.org/news/2011/2011.htm)



Relic of St. André below his photo

## MIRACLE MAN OF MONTREAL

Sr. Monique Bisson

I love to hear the lives of the saints and St. André has many stories to tell. The 'Miracle-Man of Montreal' has been the catalyst for countless miraculous healings during and after his lifetime. Here are three such stories:

- One afternoon while watching over the boys in the infirmary, St. André asked a boy with a fever, "Why are you being so lazy? Go and play with your classmates." The boy got up and ran outside. The nurse and doctor checked him several times but the fever never came back.

- In 1958, Giuseppe (Joseph) Audino was healed from the later stages of terminal cancer after asking St. André's intercession.

- In 1999, a 9 year-old Quebec boy was hit by a car while bicycling and fell into an irreversible coma with no hope of recovery. The boy's family began asking St. André's intercession and anointed him with the oil of St. Joseph. The boy came out of his coma and made a full recovery. He was among the 5,000 Canadians who attended the Canonization ceremony.

How God moves! Miracles do happen!

## ST. ANDRÉ'S HUMBLE CONFIDENCE

Sr. Anna Chan

When I think of St. André, two words come to mind, humble confidence. He was small in stature, no more than five feet tall. He had little education; barely able to write his name or read his prayer book. When he joined the Congregation of the Holy Cross, he was literally shown the door; where he spent over 40 years at Notre-Dame College as a porter. But he stood like a giant, confident and unwavering in his faith. He would pray with the sick and many of them were healed miraculously. His reputation would soon have him named 'Miracle-Worker', a name which he spoke strongly against, "People are silly to think that I can accomplish miracles! It is God and St. Joseph who can heal you, not I. I will pray to St. Joseph for you". St. André's devotion to St. Joseph was significant. You can see it tangibly for yourself, St. Joseph's Oratory, on Mount Royal in Montreal. It is magnanimous; the largest church dedicated to St. Joseph in the world.

St. André's humble confidence teaches me that nothing, no task, no challenge, no trial, no hardship, is ever too big or too small when I

humbly remember my dependence on God. However, there are times I can lose sight of my dependence on Him when, for example, I feel anxious or I worry. And when I do fall in this way, good tools and of course, His saving grace, help me recover from the anxiety and worry that gets built up in me. There is one stanza of a song that helps me,

*Nothing is impossible for you  
Nothing is impossible for you  
Nothing is impossible for you  
You hold my world  
in your hands  
(Healer, Sung by Kari Jobe)*

The words, 'You hold my world in your hands' allow me to see that the anxiety or worries I feel are ways of me seeking control. Realizing that if I truly believe that God is God and that He

holds everything about me in His hands, there is no need for fear or for control. And by His grace, the anxiety or the worry are replaced with a knowing and confidence that I am His child and that I can trust intimately in His love and His care for me.

Thank God for the saints, our older brothers and sisters. St. André, now among one of the thousands of saints, lived his life, day by day, as a real example of how we too can live. He was a teacher and a real hero of the faith; his courage to live for God, admirable; his steadfast pursuit for holiness, convincing; and his dependence on God, truly humble and confident.



St. Joseph's Oratory, Montreal



## HUMILITY

Lizette Treviño

Being from Texas, I'd never heard of St. André until joining this community. My sisters taught me all they knew of him. There have been many words used to describe him, but his humility is something that has touched my heart.

For me, humility came through this article. In my journal I wrote:

I'm to write about humility and I don't know where to start. Please Lord, let them be your words and not mine, let them be a light, let them be fruitful and let them lead the readers to you.

Based on recent experiences, I'm able to see that if I'm willing to endure trials, eventually humility will separate me from my pride. So, I prayed for this virtue.

In a past workshop, I had discovered that writing was one of my gifts. I don't consider myself a great writer but I'm able to be fairly descriptive.

I was soon to learn humility through this writing.

In trying to start my article, I was humbled when it took me so long to get the first few ideas out. After some time, I pulled out journal examples, added scripture, and sent it off for editing.

I received my rough draft with a number of edits, made changes and sent it back for revision. It came back even red-der than the first. After reading the comments, I saw that I was all over the place so I tried making it cohesive and ended up writing an entirely new article. I was sure this one would come back with minor changes. Seven revisions later, this little pride in my writing turned into frustration. I was at a loss for words.

One sister, after seeing me in distress, mentioned taking the matter to prayer. I was then reminded that I had asked these not to be my words in an attempt to be humble. Also, I realized that God had answered my request for humility at the very moment I asked.



Lizette Hard at Work Writing

As embarrassing, uncomfortable, and even painful this virtue of humility may be, I was able to see the pride I had attached to my gift of writing. I realized I had to make a decision; either I hold on to pride or allow the painful separation of it. I chose to be separated and the peace I received was freeing.

St. André's model of humility is an inspiring testimony of his trust in God. Through his example, I know that I am able to trust God because with His gifts and answer to my prayers, He provides me with the graces I need to fulfill His plan.



Some of Canada's Saints and Blesseds. Clockwise, starting from Top Left: St. Marguerite d'Youville, St. Marguerite Bourgeoys, Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha, Blessed Vasyl Velychkjovskiy, Blessed Marie-Anne Blondin, Blessed François de Laval, Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher, Blessed Marie-Léonie Paradis, Canadian Martyrs

## TALAGA?

(Filipino for "Oh Really?  
Did you know?")

For more information about St. André and his magnanimous devotion to St. Joseph, please see the website for St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal: <http://www.saint-joseph.org/en>

St. André is the first Canadian-born male saint. St. Marguerite d'Youville was the first Canadian-born saint. For more information about other Canadian saints and blesseds, please see the website:

<http://www.catholicregister.org/brother-andre/the-canadian-saints>



## **CONSIDERING A VOCATION? COME ON A VACATION!**

*"If there's anything I'm going to take from this day, it will be to give God permission"*  
- Sarah (participant)

Saturday March 12, 2011  
9 am to 10 pm

Please contact Sr. Anna Chan at 613-729-8710 to join us!



### ***Prayer to Obtain a Favour from St. André of Montreal***

God our Father,  
You gave Brother André of Montreal,  
your humble servant, a great devo-  
tion to St. Joseph and a special com-  
mitment to the sick and the needy.  
May the example of his life and min-  
istry inspire us to ever-greater works  
of charity, in generous service to our  
brothers and sisters in need.



Give us the strength to surrender ourselves to Your  
will, and to be instruments of your loving mercy.  
Help us to follow Brother André's example of prayer  
and love, so that we too may come into your glory.  
Through the intercession of Brother André, grant the  
favour I now present (make your request).  
Through Christ our Lord.  
Amen

<http://www.saltandlighttv.org/brotherandre/>

### ***Fill it to the Brim Our Wish List***



You can help us in filling our needs to the brim  
through:

#### **+ Gift Cards for:**

- Real Canadian Superstore
- Costco
- Staples
- Sears
- Petro-Canada
- Esso

#### **+ Items such as:**

- Postage Stamps
- Printer Paper
- 1 TB External Hard Drive
- USB Flash Drives
- Bounty Paper Towel
- Facial Tissue

For more details, please call or email us at  
[info@servantsofthecross.ca](mailto:info@servantsofthecross.ca)

### ***Mission Statement***

We are a religious community of women called to spread the message of the Gospel through a dynamic evangelization. Akin in spirituality to the Companions of the Cross, we live this message in our everyday life as Fr. Bob Bedard, our Spiritual Father envisions. We stand on four pillars: being faithful to the Eucharist, being open to the Holy Spirit, being devoted to Our Lady, and being loyal to the Church's Magisterium.

### ***Contact Info***

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