

School of Faith and Spirituality for the 25th Anniversary of the Centre Le Pèlerin

The Centre Le Pèlerin is celebrating its 25th anniversary. Throughout this special year, we are organizing various events to celebrate not only our past achievements but above all to build the future and deepen our mission: accompanying the spiritual life of every person. The exceptional success, over the past 25 years of our training school in spiritual accompaniment – now international – has inspired us to create two new schools: a School of Faith and Spirituality and a School of Prayer and Communion.

On the evening of Friday, November 21, we had the joy of officially launching our new School of Faith and Spirituality. As Ms. Halyna Kryshstal, coordinator of the three schools, highlighted in her opening remarks: *“We envision it as a place of spiritual journey and growth, dedicated to nourishing and supporting the development of people’s spiritual lives. This will take place through conferences and training sessions that are fully aligned with the mission of the Centre: to accompany people in their search for meaning and in the deepening of faith.”*

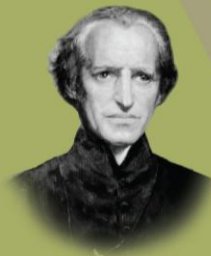
The first training program of this new school, Sacramentality and Pastoral Ministry, will begin in January 2026. It is designed primarily for pastoral workers – pastoral associates, catechists, deacons, priests, volunteers already engaged or wishing to begin a pastoral mission – but it remains open to anyone interested in a spiritual journey rooted in sacramentality.

We will offer a unique approach that allows participants to discover the sacramental nature of the human person and of all existence. This sacramental perspective invites each person to see their own life as a sign – a sacrament – of God’s presence, and to encounter Him through everything that happens to us, in joy as well as in suffering. Everyone is called to give birth to their unrepeatable gift: revealing God in a unique way. The seven sacraments will be presented as a path of interior life, a road leading to fullness in the Son. The program will also provide solid foundations in sacramental pastoral accompaniment, equipping participants to better guide their brothers and sisters on the paths of faith.

To mark this launch, we had the honour of welcoming Gabriel Ringlet – renowned writer, poet, priest, and Belgian theologian, a member of the Royal Academy of Belgium and a longtime friend of Le Pèlerin. He presented his most recent book, *Des Rites pour la vie*, in which he reminds us how deeply rites care for the human person: they support people through difficult passages and make it possible, in all circumstances, to celebrate life and rekindle hope.

For anyone interested in this training program, please consult the Centre Le Pèlerin’s website for more information:

<https://lepelerin.org/portail/ecoles/foi-et-spiritualite/formation-sacramentalite-intervention-pastorale/>



Discovering the Oratory in a New Way: Launch of “Histoires d’Oratoire”

Launch of the Virtual Exhibition – November 26, 2025

Saint Joseph’s Oratory of Mount Royal is offering a new way to discover the richness of its heritage through an original initiative titled *Histoires d’Oratoire*. This virtual exhibition provides a renewed perspective on the shrine – its spaces, its objects, and the many stories that inhabit it. More than three hundred artifacts from the Oratory’s collections are featured, accompanied by around sixty video clips created specifically to bring to life the spiritual, human, and artistic history of the site in an engaging and accessible way.

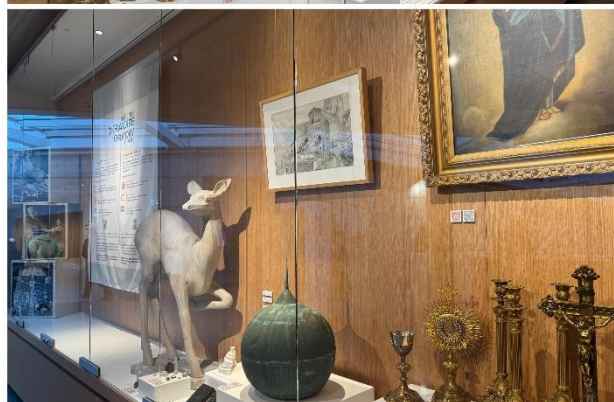
The platform also allows for a 3D exploration of the sanctuary’s various spaces, with 360-degree views and testimonies that immerse visitors in the evolution of the Oratory – from Brother André’s modest chapel to the basilica we know today. This initiative highlights many

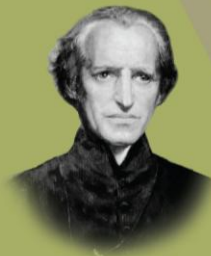
often-overlooked aspects: the artisans who shaped these spaces, the pilgrims who left their marks, and the objects that have accompanied countless prayers and spiritual journeys.

Accessible from anywhere, this virtual exhibition allows both people in Montreal and international visitors to explore the shrine at their own pace. It offers an invitation to rediscover the Oratory in a new way – to contemplate its beauty, enter into its story, and appreciate the depth of its unique heritage. Through *Histoires d’Oratoire*, everyone is invited to be touched by what this place reveals: a living memory carried by faith, hospitality, and the presence of thousands of pilgrims for more than a century.

Please visit the Oratory’s website for a detailed tour:

<https://histoiresdoratoire.org/en/#page-accueil>





Address by Father Bernard Antoine, Rector

Dear guests, dear confreres, dear friends of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, It is with great joy – and genuine pride – that I welcome you to the inauguration of our new virtual exhibition, *Histoires d'Oratoire*.

Today, we open a unique doorway onto a precious heritage: that of the Oratory, its witnesses, its works, and its often-little-known treasures. This exhibition does not merely present objects; it makes voices heard. The voices of women and men who, through their stories, reveal fragments of memory, experiences of faith, gestures of devotion, and countless human stories that have shaped the life of this sanctuary.

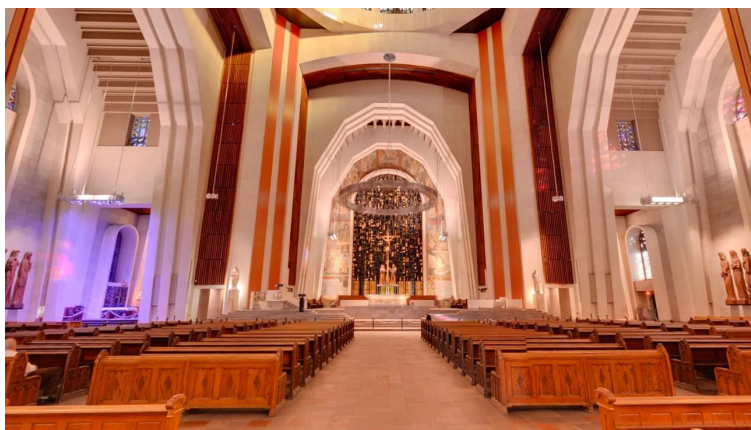
Histoires d'Oratoire is also a long-term project, developed with patience, rigor, and passion. It brought together the entire team of the Oratory's museum – curators, archivists, technicians, and external collaborators. Together, they pooled their expertise to reveal artistic, historical, and spiritual riches that bear witness to the vitality of our heritage.

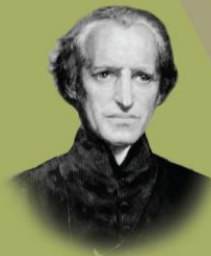
Through this exhibition, we are invited to rediscover the beauty and depth of collections that belong both to our institution and to the collective memory of Montreal. These works, these stories, these traces of the past remind us of the responsibility that is ours: to preserve, transmit, and bring to life a religious and cultural heritage that continues to inspire generations.

I warmly thank all those who contributed, in any way, to the realization of this ambitious project. Your work makes possible this unprecedented journey to the heart of the Oratory and opens new horizons for reimagining our mission of preservation and dissemination of our heritage.

I now invite you to explore *Histoires d'Oratoire* with curiosity and wonder... and to let yourselves be touched by the voices that dwell within it.

Happy discovery to each one of you, and once again, welcome!





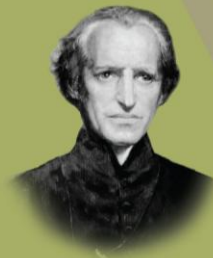
Launch of the Book *Frère Jérôme, The Free Gesture*

The Frère Jérôme Foundation organized, on Thursday, December 4, 2025, a cultural and commemorative evening for the official launch of the book *Frère Jérôme, le geste libre*, dedicated to the exceptional career of Brother Jérôme Paradis, CSC. The event took place at Saint Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal, in the Marie-Léonie-Paradis Hall.

Starting at 6 p.m., participants – friends, collaborators, members of the religious family, and admirers of Brother Jérôme's work – were welcomed in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Jean-Pierre Aumont, CSC, president of the Frère Jérôme Foundation, was unable to attend the event due to health reasons. However, he contributed greatly to the realization of this work. Father Claude Grou, Provincial Superior, spoke to express his gratitude to the members of the Frère Jérôme Foundation, dedicated to promoting and preserving the artistic heritage of Brother Jérôme Paradis.





The presentation offered an in-depth look at Brother Jérôme's career, a significant figure in contemporary Quebec and religious art. Through this publication, the Foundation seeks to highlight the path of a bold creator, guided by a profoundly free artistic vision. The book traces not only his body of work but also his contribution to the cultural and spiritual influence of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

The attentive and enthusiastic participation of the guests confirmed the importance of preserving and sharing the legacy of this extraordinary religious artist. The event was both a tribute, a celebration, and an invitation to continue valuing the artistic treasure Brother Jérôme left to Quebec and to the Congregation.

In closing, the exchanges between the author, Gilles Lapointe, the organizers, and the guests extended this moment of appreciation and inspiration, bearing witness to the lasting impact of Brother Jérôme Paradis' work on collective memory.

Jubilee Celebration 2025

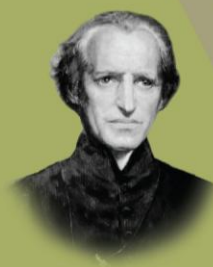
The community gathered on Friday, December 5, to joyfully and gratefully celebrate the 27 religious honoured on the occasion of their jubilees. The jubilee Mass, presided at 4:30 p.m. in the Oratory's Crypt by Paul-Élie Cadet, who was also marking his 25th anniversary of priesthood, was a deeply meaningful moment.

In his homily, Claude Grou, Provincial Superior, expressed his gratitude to the confreres for the faithfulness of their commitments, a reflection of the faithful God they have served for so many years.

The celebration continued with a fraternal meal in the Marie-Léonie-Paradis Hall, where religious, families, and friends shared a warm and joyful time together. Music and songs in several languages added a beautiful festive and universal dimension to the evening.

This gathering, marked by joy, gratitude, and fraternity, paid tribute to the shining witness of these religious who continue steadfastly in their mission in the service of the Church and the world.





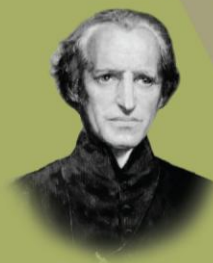
Mizoram Celebrates a Century of Catholic Presence: A Shared Joy

The Catholic community of the Diocese of Aizawl in Mizoram, in Northeast India, recently celebrated a historic moment: the centenary of the arrival of the Catholic faith on this mountainous land, where the Gospel has continued to bear beautiful fruit for one hundred years.

This celebration, deeply marked by thanksgiving and fraternal joy, brought together representatives of the Church from across the country. The event was honored by the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio to India, Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, who highlighted the extraordinary journey of the Christian communities of Mizoram and their vibrant witness of faith and solidarity.

At his side were our Holy Cross bishops: Bishop Stephen Rotluanga, CSC, Bishop of Aizawl, and Bishop Lumen Monteiro, CSC, Bishop of Agartala, accompanied by many other bishops from various regions of India. Their presence testified to ecclesial communion and the shared gratitude for this century of evangelization.

Many religious men and women of the Congregation of Holy Cross also took part in this centenary celebration: brothers and priests, including the Vicar General and First Assistant, Fr. Emmanuel Kallarackal, CSC, as well as the Provincial Superior of Northeast India, Fr. K. J.



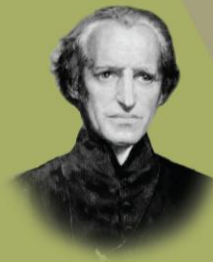
Abraham, CSC. Members of other congregations, diocesan clergy, and a large assembly of faithful from all over India joined this celebration of gratitude and hope.

The history of evangelization in Mizoram also bears the luminous imprint of Quebec missionaries, whose generosity and evangelical boldness profoundly marked this land. Beginning in the mid-20th century, several priests, religious brothers, and religious sisters from Quebec responded to the call to serve in Northeast India. There they discovered a people with open hearts, rich in unique culture and traditions, with whom they formed enduring spiritual and human bonds. Their generous commitment – including that of the Holy Cross missionaries from Quebec and other regions of Canada – played a decisive role in planting the Church in this region.



In 1925, Fr. Boulay, responding to an urgent invitation from a small group of Mizo people, made his first visit to Mizoram, where the first Catholic community was born. He was followed by Canadian brothers and priests who gradually helped this Church grow. From the earliest days of the mission in Mizoram, these religious offered their lives to accompany the growth of the young Church. Through their fraternal presence, pastoral service, education of the young, and closeness to families, they contributed decisively to rooting the Christian faith in this region. Their simplicity, courage, and availability continue to inspire local communities, and their legacy remains alive in the ministries, parishes, and deep relationships they built with the people of Mizoram.

The contribution of the Quebec missionaries remains alive in the memory of the faithful of Mizoram: schools, formation centers, social and pastoral initiatives continue to bear the fruits of their dedication. Even today, their heritage inspires new generations of missionaries and strengthens the fraternal bonds between the Canadian province of the Congregation of Holy Cross and the Church of Northeast India, united in the same mission of witnessing to the Good News. This centenary was not only a reflection of the past but a renewed call to continue the mission: to proclaim the Gospel, serve the most vulnerable, and build a living Church rooted in the culture and dynamism of the people of Mizoram. In prayer and joy, the Church of Mizoram reaffirmed its commitment to walk together, guided by the light of Christ who, for one hundred years, has illuminated and transformed this unique region of India.



A Sociological Outlook at Miracles

The Academic Journey of Thomas Xavier Gomes

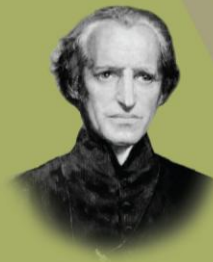
For the past three years, Thomas Gomes has been pursuing advanced studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he has just completed his master's degree in sociology. His thesis, entitled "*A Social Exploration of Spiritual Miracles: An Archival Ethnography of Saint Joseph's Oratory of Montreal (Annals 1927–1937)*," offers a profound and original reading of the relationship between faith, culture, and society.

What does it mean to explore a spiritual miracle from a social perspective? Thomas answers this question by drawing on the history of Saint Joseph's Oratory and the extraordinary legacy of Saint Brother André, whose tireless devotion to Saint Joseph inspired countless people during the Oratory's early years. The healings attributed to Brother André, set within diverse cultural contexts, testify to the deep trust people placed in the intercession of Saint Joseph. These healings not only transformed the lives of entire families but also influenced social values, encouraging other believers to turn to Saint Joseph in their own difficulties.

As Thomas Gomes observes, miracles occur all over the world – sometimes discreetly, sometimes in spectacular ways. In many cultures, the faithful instinctively turn to sacred places or religious practices even before seeking medical help. This enduring trust in the supernatural forms the very heart of the miraculous experience. Brother André was its luminous embodiment: a simple yet unshakable faith. Today, Saint Joseph's Oratory remains one of the most visited shrines in the world, a living testimony to this spiritual heritage.

The main objective of Thomas's study was to understand how the spiritual experience lived at the Oratory transformed people's lives – socially, psychologically, and spiritually – and how these transformations helped prepare them to contribute more fully to the socio-economic life of their communities. To do this, he immersed himself in the English *Annals of Saint Joseph*, published starting in 1927, analyzing articles, testimonies, photographs, and accounts of healings up until Brother André's death in 1937.

A careful reading of these pages reveals a true tapestry of stories of faith: accounts of healings, social contexts, spiritual encounters, theological reflections, and above all, a profound trust placed in Saint Joseph. The *Annals* show how people were healed, consoled, reconciled, and renewed – socially, spiritually, and sometimes even politically – under the protection of Saint Joseph. The results are striking: between 1927 and 1937, Brother André received more than 3,019,000 letters, 158 medical reports of healing, and an innumerable multitude of favors obtained through the intercession of Saint Joseph. Many bishops, archbishops, cardinals, and Church delegates came to meet the miracle worker to receive a blessing.



Articles addressing theology, sociology, culture, spirituality, and devotion demonstrate the ongoing relevance of Saint Joseph in the modern world. *“Faith moves mountains”* (Mt 17:20), a reality confirmed by the humble and tenacious faith of Brother André, who continues to invite us: *Ite ad Joseph*.

Structured in five chapters, this thesis shows that miracles arise in a specific time and place – not according to human will, but according to God’s. Through faith, the human person enters into this divine movement, and each miracle in turn contributes to social and human progress.

Now, Father Thomas Xavier Gomes is continuing his doctoral studies at the same university. His research now focuses on the question: How can a shrine like Saint Joseph’s Oratory inspire contemporary Canadian society?

