

Pray hard for Jim
Corcoran whose condition
remains unsatisfactory.

University of Notre Dame
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Deceased: uncle of George
Mulligan (Badin); Sr. Mary
Davidica Armstrong, '35.

Brother Andre Is Dead.

Word came yesterday of the death of Brother Andre, C.S.C., "Miracle Man of Montreal."

Here briefly is his story. Brother Andre (Alfred Besette) was born in August, 1845, on a small farm in Canada. As a young man of unusually small stature he was physically weak.

Early in his youth he manifested intense personal devotion to St. Joseph.

Unable to earn more than a desultory living, Alfred Besette entered the Congregation of Holy Cross in Montreal as the lay Brother Andre. First he was dish washer, then barber, and finally doorkeeper at the school.

During his spare hours he ministered to the sick and troubled. Students, and soon their parents and friends, looked upon him as a special confidant and counsellor. Stories of cures, both spiritual and physical, began to cluster around Brother Andre. Visitors from far and near sought him out.

Upon a wooded hillside near the school Brother Andre built with his own hands a rough Shrine to St. Joseph. Increasing hundreds came to the little Shrine, and finally the Congregation of Holy Cross permitted Brother to erect, on a larger plot of adjacent land, a wooden oratory to St. Joseph. This wooden oratory still stands.

By 1909 Brother Andre was relieved of his duties as doorkeeper, and from then on he gave his time to his devotions and consultations. Reports of cures were rapidly spread by Catholics and Protestants alike. By 1924 more than 300,000 had visited the oratory.

Then was visualized a great stone basilica to honor St. Joseph on the American continent. Funds poured in, and the magnificent Shrine stands, almost complete, on the terraced slopes of Mount Royal at Montreal, Canada.

This monument to St. Joseph attracts today more pilgrims than any other shrine in the whole world.

For years Brother Andre has been known at large, and by his own Congregation, as the "living saint." Although physically weak and worn he met visitants to the Shrine almost to the hour of his death. And, remember, he died at 91!

Often he journeyed to the United States. During the last Christmas holidays he visited in Rhode Island the sick father of a Notre Dame student. Frequently in years gone by he came to the Motherhouse of the Congregation of Holy Cross here at Notre Dame.

Through all his worldly fame he preserved his childlike humility. Not long ago a non-Catholic visitor to the Shrine asked the Brother to bless a valued Rosary. Evidently amused at the request, Brother Andre replied, in substance: "I cannot impart a blessing to your Rosary as I am only a lowly brother. But let me take it in my hand and I will say a prayer asking for the protection and help of our Patron, St. Joseph."

Ah, St. Joseph! He was Brother Andre's secret of immense power. St. Joseph meant everything. Brother Andre recognized himself as the feeblest of tools. His death trumpets anew the formula that his long life advertised: In all ailments of body and soul, Go to Joseph! You may hear much more about Brother Andre before you are very old.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Brother Andre, C.S.C. (miracle-worker); relative of Bob Campbell (Morr.); aunt of Fran Herb (Alum.). Ill, Phil Hoene (Dill.), appendectomy; aunt of George O'Neil (Carroll). One special intention for Father O'Hara.