
Miracle Man Of Montreal

To Notre Dame, this week, came word from Rome that the Sacred Congregation of Rites had formally approved Brother Andre, C.S.C., as a candidate for beatification (along with Father Basil Moreau, C.S.C., founder of the community). Beatification is an official act of the Church declaring a deceased person to be among the blessed in heaven. The person beatified is then entitled to public veneration by the faithful.

And who was Brother Andre? He was the "Miracle Man of Montreal." Even more important: he was a humble Lay Brother of Holy Cross who cultivated a great devotion to Saint Joseph. No Ph.D., he went about his quiet, simple, prayerful way, performing the menial tasks assigned to him. He answered the door at the college of Notre Dame in Montreal; he made altar breads; he swept the chapel, and ran errands.

And sometimes he would slip un-noticed across the road and up the hill opposite the college to spend a quiet interval in prayer to his favorite saint. Soon, he began to dream of a little shrine to St. Joseph on this hill -- the highest point in the city. If he had his way, St. Joseph would have a sanctuary of his own. In 1904, with the good saint's help, the land was purchased, and a small oratory was erected.

Meantime, there were rumors of cures effected through the humble Brother's prayers. Soon the line of visitors became a multitude. Many of the sick and afflicted were cured instantly; yet some few continued to call him, "a fake healer; a quack doctor." But the miracles mounted and the opposition diminished, and the little Brother went about his accustomed, quiet way, assuring all that he did nothing, but that Saint Joseph could do all things for those who enlisted his intercession. In 1912 the little structure was enlarged. In 1916 the crypt was begun. Today the great oratory, the greatest shrine to St. Joseph in all the world, rises majestically above the city of Montreal -- a splendid tribute to the Protector of the Holy Family, and to the humble Holy Cross Lay Brother who was his devoted servant.

Brother Andre died January 6, 1937, and lies buried in a simple tomb of plain black marble in the crypt of his Oratory on the mountain top -- the center of endless pilgrimage. Only the special action of Divine Providence can explain what has happened, and continues to happen, there.

On December 8, 1956, the 50th anniversary of Brother Andre's humble efforts, the Canadian Hierarchy proclaimed a Jubilee Year in honor of St. Joseph. Tomorrow at Mass, pray to St. Joseph. Ask for what you need most through his beloved wonder-worker, the little Holy Cross Brother, Frere Andre.

Tonight at 6:45 -- The Novena to the Sorrowful Mother in Sacred Heart Church.

Tonight at 7:30 -- The Seniors will begin their Closed Retreat in Sacred Heart Church, under the direction of Reverend Gervase Brinkman, O.F.M.

This Sunday: Parents of the Juniors will attend the 9 o'clock Mass in Sacred Heart.

All Seniors will attend the 8 o'clock Mass in Sacred Heart -- there will be no Senior Masses in the hall chapels this Sunday. On Sunday morning, the retreat conferences will be held in the Engineering Auditorium at 9:45 and 11:15. All Seniors who attend the retreat will be excused from classes on Saturday morning.

PRAYERS -- Deceased: brother of Father Ralph Davis, C.S.C.; grandfather of Charles Day of Farley; uncle of James Hurley of Morrissey. Ill: grandmother of Stan Wegrzynowicz of Cavanaugh; father of Prof. Ervin Tobund; mother of Bob Gulde of Dillon; grandmother of Bill Brennan of Sorin. 1 Sp. Int.