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Faithful Navigator Report — SK Oscar Martinez

Sir Knights:

As a new fiscal year begins, we want to take a moment to acknowledge our past Faithful Navigator, John Massey. We wish to express our heartfelt congratulations and our deepest gratitude for his dedication and exceptional leadership over the past year.

John's unwavering commitment to our Assembly and the principles of the Knights of Columbus has truly been inspiring. He has led by example, fostering an atmosphere of unity, charity and service that has strengthened our brotherhood and enhanced our mission to serve others. Your efforts in organizing events, supporting our community initiatives, and encouraging participation among members have not gone unnoticed.

Thanks to John's leadership, we have seen our assembly thrive, grow closer together and make a meaningful impact in the lives of those we serve. He has navigated us through challenges with grace and determination, reminding us all of the importance of faith and fellowship.

We are grateful for the time, energy, and passion that he has invested in our organization, and we look forward to carrying on the torch that he has lit so brightly.

I personally want to thank John Massey for all the support and guidance he has given me and the assembly. May your journey ahead be filled with joy, success and GOD's blessings.

CONGRATULATIONS GOOD FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR!

GOALS FOR THE YEAR

This year, I have at least two personal goals for the Assembly. First, I wish to increase the membership attendance at our monthly meetings. We need to visit the Councils and invite them to our meetings. With the 4th Degree Exemplification on September 7, 2024, here in Austin, Texas (Emmaus Catholic Church), it is an excellent opportunity to encourage our 3rd degree Brother Knights to join our Assembly.

Secondly, I wish to add fun events to our year, perhaps a Family Picnic Outing, Bingo Night, Bowling Night, and/or have Speakers talk to us regarding different topics (financial wealth, wills and trusts, funeral planning, meet your Pastor, exercising/relaxing), etc. We need to make our meetings more exciting and/or meaningful to encourage more members to attend our meetings. I welcome your input to achieve these and other goals. Together we can make it happen!

Looking forward to a FANTASTIC year!

May GOD bless US and our Country.

Oscar Martinez
 Faithful Navigator
 Bishop Louis J Reicher Assembly #1099

Bishop Reicher
 Assembly 1099



**Happy Birthday
Sir Knights !!!
May you have many more**

DONALD	ARCHER
JUAN	CANO
PETER	DONAHOE
JAMES	GOERTZ
FR. JOHN	GUTIERREZ
SAMUEL	MURFF
GREGORY	NELSON
STEPHEN	PALMER
STEPHEN	ROBERTS
PAUL	ROOT
BRIAN	SENN
GORDON	SMITH
ERIC	VALDEZ
Fr. HECTOR	VEGA

Saint of the Month—SK Giacomo Leone

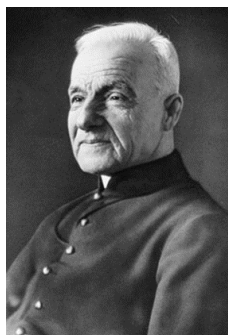
St. Andre Bessette

Feast day: January 6

Beatified: Pope John Paul II

Canonized: October 17, 2010, Saint Peter's Square, Rome, by Pope Benedict XVI

From Catholic online, edited by G. Leone



When Alfred Bessette came to the Holy Cross Brothers in 1870, he carried with him a note from his pastor saying, "I am sending you a saint." The Brothers found that difficult to believe. Chronic stomach pains had made it impossible for Alfred to hold a job very long and since he was a boy he had wandered from shop to shop, farm to farm, in his native Canada and in the United States, staying only until his employers found out how little work he could do. The Holy Cross Brothers were teachers and, at 25, Alfred still did not know how to read and write. It seemed as if Alfred approached the religious order out of desperation, not vocation.

Alfred was desperate, but he was also prayerful and deeply devoted to God and Saint Joseph. He may have had no place left to go, but he believed that was because this was the place he felt he should have been all along.

The Holy Cross Brothers took him into the novitiate but soon found out what others had learned -- as hard as Alfred, now Brother Andre, wanted to work, he simply wasn't strong enough. They asked him to leave the order, but Andre, out of desperation again, appealed to a visiting bishop who promised him that Andre would stay and take his vows.

After his vows, Brother Andre was sent to Notre Dame College in Montreal (a school for boys age seven to twelve) as a porter. There his responsibilities were to answer the door, to welcome guests, find the people they were visiting, wake up those in the school, and deliver mail. Brother Andre joked later, "At the end of my novitiate, my superiors showed me the door, and I stayed there for forty years."

In 1904, he surprised the Archbishop of Montreal if he could, by requesting permission to, build a chapel to Saint Joseph on the mountain near the college. The Archbishop refused to go into debt and would only give permission for Brother Andre to build what he had money for. What money did Brother Andre have? Nickels he had collected as donations for Saint Joseph from haircuts he gave the boys. Nickels and dimes from a small dish he had kept in a picnic shelter on top of the mountain near a statue of St. Joseph with a sign "Donations for St. Joseph." He had collected this change for years but he still had only a few hundred dollars. Who would start a chapel now with so little funding?

Andre took his few hundred dollars and built what he could ... a small wood shelter only fifteen feet by eighteen feet. He kept collecting money and went back three years later to request more building. The wary Archbishop asked him, "Are you having visions of Saint Joseph telling you to build a church for him?"

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Saint of the Month— Continued

Brother Andre reassured him. "I have only my great devotion to St. Joseph to guide me."

The Archbishop granted him permission to keep building as long as he didn't go into debt. He started by adding a roof so that all the people who were coming to hear Mass at the shrine wouldn't have to stand out in the rain and the wind. Then came walls, heating, a paved road up the mountain, a shelter for pilgrims, and finally a place where Brother Andre and others could live and take care of the shrine -- and the pilgrims who came - full-time. Through kindness, caring, and devotion, Brother Andre helped many souls experience healing and renewal on the mountaintop. There were even cases of physical healing. But for everything, Brother Andre thanked St. Joseph.

Despite financial troubles, Brother Andre never lost faith or devotion. He had started to build a basilica on the mountain but the Depression had interfered. At ninety-years old he told his co-workers to place a statue of St. Joseph in the unfinished, unroofed basilica. He was so ill he had to be carried up the mountain to see the statue in its new home. Brother Andre died soon after on January 6, and didn't live to see the work on the basilica completed. But in Brother Andre's mind it never would be completed because he always saw more ways to express his devotion and to heal others. As long as he lived, the man who had trouble keeping work for himself, would never have stopped working for God.

On December 19, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI promulgated a decree recognizing a second miracle at Blessed André's intercession and on October 17, 2010, Pope Benedict XVI formally declared sainthood for Blessed Andre.

In His Footsteps:

Brother Andre didn't mind starting small.

Think of some service you have longed to perform for God and God's people, but that you thought was too overwhelming for you. What small bit can you do in this service? If you can't afford to give a lot of money to a cause, just give a little. If you can't afford hours a week in volunteering, try an hour a month on a small task. It is amazing how those small steps can lead you up the mountain as they did for Brother Andre.

Prayer: Blessed Brother Andre, your devotion to Saint Joseph is an inspiration to us. You gave your life selflessly to bring the message of his life to others. Pray that we may learn from Saint Joseph, and from you, what it is like to care for Jesus and do his work in the world. Amen

André Bessette, C.S.C. (born **Alfred**; 9 August 1845 – 6 January 1937), commonly known as **Brother André** (French: *Frère André*) and since his canonization as **Saint André of Montreal**, was a lay brother of the Congregation of Holy Cross and a significant figure of the Catholic Church among French-Canadians. He is credited with thousands of reported healings associated with his pious devotion to Saint Joseph.

Bessette was declared venerable in 1978 and was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1982, Pope Benedict XVI approved the decree of sainthood for Bessette on 19 February 2010, with the formal canonization taking place on 17 October 2010.¹ He is the first Canadian living after Confederation to be canonized.

Early life

He was born **Alfred Bessette** in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Canada East (Québec), a small town situated 40 kilometres (25 mi) southeast of Montreal.^[5] His father, Isaac Bessette, was a carpenter and lumberman, while his mother, Clothilde Foisy Bessette, saw to the education of the children. Bessette was the eighth of 12 children, four of whom died in infancy. At birth, Bessette was so frail that the curé baptized him "conditionally" in an emergency ritual the following day. In 1849, with employment scarce and his family living in poverty, Bessette's father moved to Farnham, Quebec to work as a lumberman, but was shortly thereafter killed by a falling tree. Bessette was nine years old, and his mother, at 40, remained with ten children in her care. Clothilde died of tuberculosis within three years, and Bessette became orphaned at the age of twelve.

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Knights of Columbus Bishop Reicher
Assembly 1099

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Trustee Two Year

SK Billy Roberts

Trustee Three Year

SK Michael Moreno

Faithful Inner Sentinel

SK Jim Luhrman

Faithful Outer Sentinel

SK Jose Roddriguez

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SK Darrel Vinklarek
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SK José Rodriquez

The 4th Degree Patriotic Order of the Knights of Columbus is open to Third Degree Knights. Contact your Council Financial Secretary if you are interested or email the Faithful Navigator or Captain.

Pay Dues or Make Donations Online Now Available

<https://kofc1099.org/dues/>

From the Editor

Contact the Editor: Greg Nelson gnelson8156@gmail.com

Webmaster for the Assembly Brandon Kraft bk@kraft.im

Meetings for Bishop Reicher Assembly 1099

Meeting Schedule:

The Second Monday of the Month at 7:30 pm

St. Catherine of Siena

4800 Convict Hill Road

Austin, TX 78749

Parish Activity Center

2nd Floor Room 213

Saint of the Month— Continued



The pastor of his parish, André Provençal, noticed the devotion and generosity of the young man. He decided to present Bessette to the Congregation of Holy Cross in Montreal, writing a note to the superior, "I'm sending you a saint." Although he was initially rejected by the order because of frail health, Archbishop Ignace Bourget of Montreal intervened on his behalf, and in 1872, Bessette was accepted and entered the novitiate of the congregation, receiving the religious name of Brother André, by which he was known for the rest of his life. He made his final vows on February 2, 1874, at the age of 28. After, Bessette became a porter at Collège Notre-Dame in Côte-des-Neiges, Quebec, and also served as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger.

While working at the college, Bessette began to minister to the sick. Biographer Leonard Foley wrote that "his great confidence in Saint Joseph inspired him to recommend the saint's devotion to all those who were afflicted." The brother also rubbed the sick with oil taken from one of the college's lamps. People claimed that they had been cured through the prayers of Bessette and Saint Joseph, and they were grateful their prayers had been heard. Bessette steadfastly refused to take any credit for these cures, even during an epidemic.^[10] Bessette's desire to see Saint Joseph honoured led him in 1904 to launch a campaign to build a chapel for that purpose.

As tensions increased at the college with so many of the sick coming to see the porter, the school officials decided that Bessette could no longer continue with his ministry. He was permitted to receive the sick in the nearby tramway station rather than the college. As his reputation spread, Bessette became quite a controversial figure. There were many religious in the Congregation of Holy Cross, teachers and parents of students at the College who supported him but, many others opposed him and even considered him dangerous to the well-being of the school's reputation because they regarded him as a charlatan. Others were concerned for the good health of the children, fearing the possibility of contagion in the school spread from diseases carried by the sick who frequented Bessette. In 1924 construction of a basilica named Saint Joseph's Oratory began on the side of the mountain, near Bessette's chapel.



Death and path to canonization

Statue of André Bessette by Joseph-Émile Brunet on the grounds of Saint Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, QC, Canada

Bessette died on January 6, 1937, at the age of 91. One million people filed past his coffin.

The remains of Bessette lie in the church he helped build. His body lies in a tomb built below the Oratory's Main Chapel, except for his heart, which is preserved in a reliquary in the same Oratory. The heart was stolen in March 1973, but was recovered in December 1974 with the help of criminal lawyer Frank Shoofey.

A cause for Bessette's beatification was opened on July 20, 1950. He was beatified by Pope John Paul II on May 23, 1982. The miracle cited in support of his beatification was the healing in 1958 of Giuseppe Carlo Audino, who suffered from cancer.^[17] Saint André is commemorated in most of the world by an optional memorial on January 6. His memorial is celebrated in Canada on January 7.

On December 19, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI promulgated a decree recognizing a second miracle at Bessette's intercession, and on October 17, 2010, formally declared sainthood for him. Bessette was the first saint of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the same religious order that founded the University of Notre Dame.

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Saint of the Month— Continued

Legacy

Many educational buildings were later named for Bessette, including:

- Andre Hall at St. Edward's University in Austin, Texas
- Brother André Catholic High School in Markham, Ontario
- Saint Andre Bessette Secondary School in London, Ontario
- Saint André Catholic Elementary School in Brampton, Ontario
- St. André Bessette Catholic High School in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta

St. André French Immersion Catholic Elementary School in Tecumseh, Ontario

Other educational namesakes include the St. Andre Scholars program at Notre Dame College Prep in Niles, Illinois. Statues of Bessette stand at Holy Cross College and the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Several churches have also been named for Bessette, including ones in Ecorse, Michigan,^[27] Laconia, New Hampshire, Portland, Oregon, Vaughan, Ontario, and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania (now closed). There are also missions named for him in Cadiz, Philippines, Phoenix, Arizona, and York Region, Ontario



St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal
