

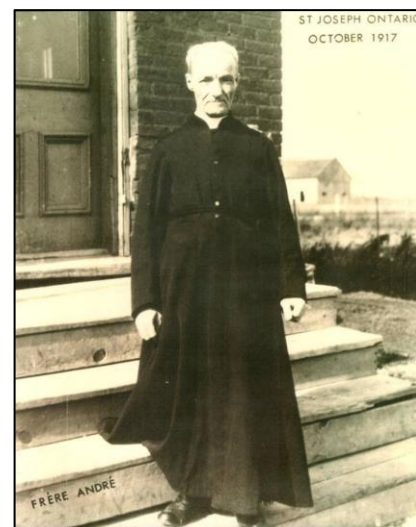
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Photos, stories of miraculous healings and parishioners' memories from the time St. Brother André was among us



St. Brother André with children from the St. Joseph area

[L to R] Nelson Cantin in front of Stella Jeffrey, Gabrielle Cantin, Blanche Jeffrey, Irene Jeffrey holding Eva Cantin, St. Brother André, Louise (Jeffrey) Cantin, and Dominic Jeffrey



St. Brother André on back porch of Narcisse Cantin's home.

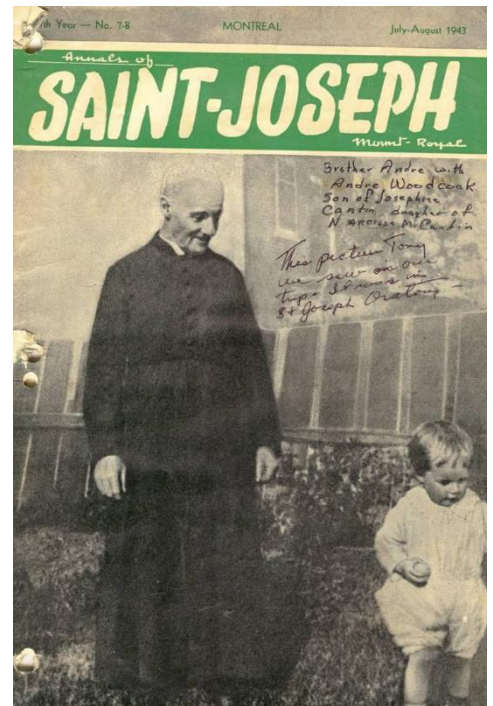
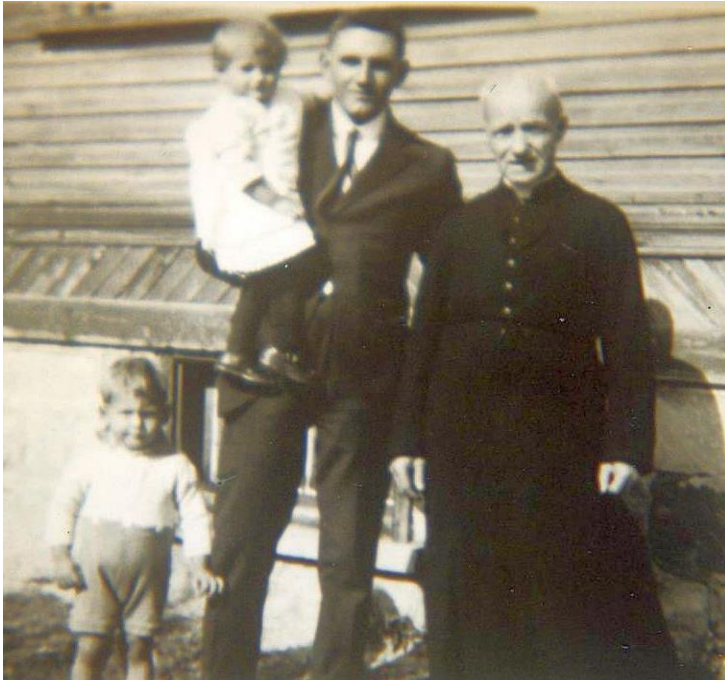


St. Joseph, 1917 – St. Brother André with Denomme Family

BR: L to R Louis Denomme, Anne Cantin holding Gabrielle Cantin, Eugenie, Maxime & Solomon Denomme, Josephine Cantin

FR: L to R Louis Gonzague Cantin, Valerie (Laporte) Cantin, St. Brother André, Joseph Cantin

Nelson, Eva and Joe Cantin with St. Brother André



On cover "Brother André with André Woodcock, son of Josephine Cantin, daughter of Narcisse M. Cantin.



The Cantin Family

Madeleine Cantin, Valerie (Laporte) Cantin, Josephine (Denomme) Cantin with Gabrielle Cantin in front of Josephine, Marie Cantin holding godchild Napoleon Cantin Jr., Antoinette and Anne Cantin, Pierre Denomme, Napoleon A. Cantin, St. Brother André, Arthur Screenan, Gonzague (Louis) Cantin

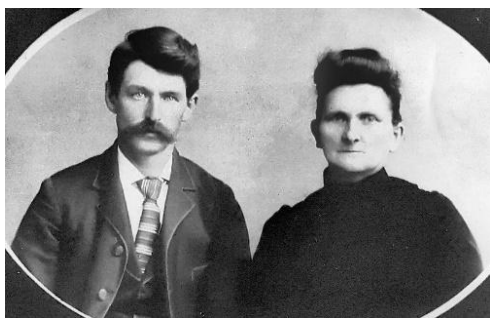
Miraculous Healings

While visiting St. Joseph, Brother André met with many of St. Peter's parishioners—several of whom were healed of various ailments through his intercession.



Anna Etue, wife of Edward Etue, had a goiter medical problem for many years. In 1922, she was also suffering from internal bleeding and was not receiving any relief by medical attention. During Brother André's 1922 visit to St. Joseph, Edward Etue arranged for Brother André to visit Anna in the family home, where she was bedridden. During the visit, she asked Brother André to pray over her for relief from the goiter as well as the internal bleeding. Brother André responded that his prayers wouldn't be effective for the complex goiter problem, but he would pray for relief of the internal bleeding. Shortly thereafter, the bleeding stopped and didn't reoccur during the rest of

Anna's life. (This story was told to Margaret Mary (Masse) Brisson by her mother Genevieve Etue, daughter of Edward & Anna Etue, who was present during Brother André's visit to the family home. Prepared by: Paul Edward De La Franier, April 2017)



Edward & Edwidge (Gravelle) Denomme

Mrs. Edward Denomme was suffering from a "running sore" in her mouth caused by a bad tooth. This sore had been present for six or seven years. Edward Corriveau and his mother, Mathilda (Gravelle) Corriveau, took Mrs. Denomme to see Brother André. After her visit, she was completely cured and the sore never returned. (As told by Edward Corriveau.)

As a child, **Maxime Jeffrey** suffered from adenoids and had to breathe through his mouth and sleep sitting up. Brother André placed his fingers on the bridge of Maxime's nose and he placed his other hand on Maxime's head. He was able to breathe freely and his adenoid problem never returned. (As told by Maxime Jeffrey.)



Peter Denomme was dying from fluid on the lungs. Dr. O'Dwyer felt that Mr. Denomme would not last the day. Brother André came to his bedside and prayed with him. Mr. Denomme immediately got out of bed. Prior to Brother André's visit, Mr. Denomme had been unable to swallow water without choking on it. By noontime, he was eating a large meal. (As told by Edward Corriveau, who was present.)





Zoé Tousignant was unable to walk without a cane. Brother André told her to throw the cane away. Much to her surprise, once she did, she was able to walk. (As told by Edward Corriveau.)

Jessiah Bédard walked with crutches. He went to visit Brother André, who told him that he no longer needed his crutches. After having a chat with Brother André, when Josiah was about to leave, he leaned over to get his crutches and Brother André again told him he didn't need them. Jessiah was able to walk without crutches, but did so in a slightly bent-over position. Jessiah Bédard worked in the Drysdale store. (As told by Sarah (Masse) Jeffrey & Gerard Geoffroi.)



Edward Denomme had asthma, which made it difficult for him to work his farm and support his family of 11. His daughter Priscille remembers her father as "a good and hard worker." His condition was treated by inhaling an asthma powder from a tin dish that looked like a lamp shade. Her father would often say, "If I only had my breathing..." Priscille's uncle from Michigan drove Edward to the Oratory in Montreal where they met with Brother André in the "little caboose." While placing one hand on

Edward's head and one on his chest, Brother André explained that while Edward would not be completely cured, he would be able to sleep at night, work his farm, and support his family. From that day forward, Edward no longer needed to use the asthma powder to breathe. (As told by Priscille (Denomme) Brandt.)

Emeline Jeffrey walked over to see Brother André about a painful tooth. When she arrived, he asked her why she had come. She explained that she was in pain because of her tooth. He replied, "But you lost it along the way." Emeline put her hand to where her sore tooth had been and was surprised that the pain was gone and the area felt fine. Brother André knew, before Emeline arrived, what her ailment was and that she had been healed. (As told by Gerard Geoffroi, her nephew.)



Séraphine (Masse) Bédard

While dining with Brother André in her home, Séraphine (Masse) Bédard was cured of an infectious tooth. Her daughter Beatrice was present. (A family story as remembered by Terry Davies, a great-granddaughter to Seraphine.)

"Mrs. Oscar Ducharme Jr. — a Picture of Brother André. She claims Brother André cured one of her sons in home here in St. Joseph from "taking fits." Urban Ducharme, now completely well, never took a fit afterwards." (As recorded by Napoleon Cantin in a notebook dated May 1st 1937)

May 1st 1937
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S. Priscille Therese Ducharme

"April 3rd 1937 To Fred Ducharme family, 1 picture of dear Bro André. Brother André cured one of his daughters (Priscille) now a nun - Sister Priscille Therese of asthma - 1917 -" (As recorded by Napoleon Cantin in a notebook dated May 1st 1937)

April 3rd 1937
To Fred Ducharme family -
1 picture of dear Bro André
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In 1922, Brother André cured **Charlie Rau**, then a young boy, of stuttering. His mother took him to see Brother André who was visiting at Joseph & Seraphine (Masse) Bédard's home at the time. (As remembered by John-Paul Rau (2017), Charles's son.)



Dennis Charrette was born with a hernia and was required to wear a brace for support. His mother took him to see Brother André at Seraphine (Masse) Bédard's home. Brother André told Dennis that he didn't need the brace anymore and Dennis was able to get around without it after that. (As told by Rev. Fr. Richard Charrette, his son.)

Napoleon Louis Denomme, born August 7, 1902, at St. Joseph, Ontario, was the third of twelve children of Philip Denomme and Anne Durand. When Napoleon L. Denomme ... was young, he had an accident and got blood poisoning. It was believed that he would lose his leg. Brother André, who was visiting St. Joseph, was asked to pray for him. After he prayed, Brother André told them that he would not lose the leg. When he died in 1975, he still limped, but he never lost his leg. (As recorded by Philippe L. Denomme.)



Napoleon seated on his father's lap

Malvina Courville (Mother of Aldea Larouche Denomme) was having a gallbladder attack. She dictated a letter to Brother André telling him how she felt and explaining that she had a large family to raise. She asked if he would pray for her. She was sick for 16 days and couldn't eat. When Brother André's reply came, the letter had prayers in it. Everybody knelt down and said the prayers. When they were finished, she started feeling better, sat up, and ate her first meal in days. She died some years later of an unrelated cause. (As written by Philippe L. Denomme.)

Celima (Ducharme) Bédard



During Brother André's visit, Celima (Ducharme) Bédard was cured of lockjaw. A family story was told that Nelson, Celima's son, called to his mother over one day to come look at the steam coming out of the kettle where they could see the image of St. Brother André's. (As told to Mary Anne (Bédard) Masse, Celima's daughter.)

Thelma (Dolly) Jeffrey went to visit her dear friend, Valerie Cantin and asked to borrow the wool grey blanket Brother André had used on his bed, so that she could wrap her sick baby in it. The fever left instantly and the child got up, ran and played.



Adelard "Delore" Ducharme was unable to walk because his legs were frail. Brother André rubbed his legs with St. Joseph oil and Mr. Ducharme was able to walk. (as told by Edward Corriveau)

Brother André Remembered

A few memories of Saint Brother André's visits to St. Peter's Parish in St. Joseph have been recorded:

Catherine (Jeffrey) Gregus.



This scapular and bottle of holy oil were blessed by St. Brother André and given to Catherine (Jeffrey) Gregus.

As a child, Catherine remembers visiting Valerie Cantin, playing upstairs and walking around in a pair shoes that St. Brother André had left behind.



Louise Etue

"My mother, Louise Etue, was 11 years old when Brother André first visited St. Joseph in 1917. She spoke often and reverently about her memories of this visit as well as subsequent visits by Brother André. She would relate her impressions of what he said, his method of speech, mannerisms, physical size, etc. as well as how 'holy' he seemed to be. He had a very large, long-lasting impact on her religious beliefs.

Throughout her lifetime she subscribed to the St. Joseph Oratory Annuals. They were always present on her night table. At age 71, her one and only visit to St. Joseph Oratory in Montreal occurred when I was able to take her there in 1977. She was enthralled by the whole experience and considered it a highlight of her lifetime." (Respectfully submitted by her eldest son, Paul Edward De La Franier)

Edward N. Corriveau, 1917



Edward N. Corriveau (1896-1984), son of Joseph Corriveau and Mathilda Gravelle, had an opportunity to meet with Saint André in 1917. St. André told Edward that he needn't be concerned about going to war because he would return home unharmed. He also reassured Edward that he wouldn't have to kill anyone while overseas. As it turns out, St. André was correct. Edward didn't fire at another person while overseas. The only thing he shot was a pigeon, which he gave to the family he was stationed with in Belgium for their next meal. This gesture wasn't received as hoped, since he'd unknowingly shot their daughter's pet pigeon. On the morning of Nov. 11, 1918, Edward and his battalion were packed and ready to move to the front lines. The message board in the camp stated that they were to wait as the peace talks were drawing to a close. By 11 o'clock that morning, armistice was

signed and the war had ended. For the remainder of 1918, and part of 1919, Edward and his battalion escorted the German soldiers out of France, through Belgium and into Germany. Since he could speak French, Edward went ahead with a billeting team and acted as an interpreter, arranging for places for the troops to stay at night. (as told to his grand-daughter, Elaine (Jeffrey) Coxon)



St. Brother André stayed with the family of Napoleon A. & Valerie Cantin while visiting St. Joseph. The white arrow indicates the room where St. Brother André slept.

Brother Andre still thrills him

By BRUCE LEVY

Sixty years ago, when Theodore LaPorte was in his teens, he spent a couple of weeks acting as a volunteer chauffeur.

Now, at the age of 77, the retired Windsor resident says he is "absolutely thrilled" to find out that the man he drove around the parish of St. Joseph, near Grand Bend, stands a good chance of being declared a saint by the Roman Catholic church.

LaPorte was in hospital for a checkup when he saw an article in The Windsor Star earlier this month about Brother Andre, a Canadian, who died in 1937. The article stated that the Pope had declared Brother Andre venerable, which is one of the first steps towards sainthood.

LaPorte was born in St. Joseph and lived there until the Second World War. During his childhood it was a small, predominantly French-Canadian community consisting of only 100 families.

At some point during the First World War, LaPorte can't remember exactly when, Brother Andre visited St. Joseph from Montreal.

Brother Andre was already an elderly man, LaPorte remembers, with many wrinkles, of slight stature and stooped posture.

LaPorte was an altar boy in St. Peter's Church and since his father had a car, the young LaPorte was enlisted to drive Brother Andre the one and a quarter miles to mass and back every day.

LaPorte says that even then Brother Andre had a reputation for being able to cure, and many sick and crippled people went to see him in the St. Peter's sacristy.

LaPorte says he can remember at least one man who claimed to have had a bad leg cured by Brother Andre.

One day, says LaPorte, Brother Andre suddenly said "I've never driven a car." The young LaPorte offered to let him try and that was all the invitation he needed.

He drove all the way home, LaPorte chuckles, "and got quite a kick out of it."

After reading last week's article, LaPorte says, "I have quite a thrill just to know I shook hands with him."

A black and white portrait of Theodore LaPorte, an elderly man with glasses, looking slightly to the side. He is wearing a dark suit jacket over a light-colored shirt and a dark tie.

Photo by STAR STAFF

Theodore LaPorte recalls Brother Andre

(Contact Elaine (Jeffrey) Coxon ecoxon@live.ca if you have a story to share)