



Dear brothers and sisters, pilgrims from every corner of the world,
as well as the faithful of St. Joseph's Oratory, and
dear Fathers of the Congregation of the Holy Cross,

As the Year of St. Joseph comes to a close, I wish to assure you of how close you are to my heart and to thank you for your exceptional work promoting devotion to St. Joseph in this shrine dedicated to him.

St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal has always been a beacon for the Church in Quebec, throughout Canada, and indeed for the whole Universal Church, guiding people of all cultures to come together in their search for love and hope. Here many pilgrims discover the life and presence of St. Joseph, call upon him full of confidence, and return to their daily lives filled with light and faith, like those many candles that burn so brightly in the Oratory's crypt. Accept my thanks as you continue to carry out the great mission that St. Brother André has entrusted to you.

With you, I give heartfelt thanks to God for this year dedicated to St. Joseph and for all the visible and hidden graces that it has borne and will continue to bear. I bless your mission, which is:

- † a mission of the Church as it journeys together, synodal;
- † a mission that is close to the sick, the most marginalized and the most vulnerable among us; and
- † a mission to all men and women, of every background and circumstance, that they may find welcome here, along with peace and reconciliation.

May St. Joseph protect the Oratory of Mount Royal and the Congregation of the Holy Cross, as well as its entire staff and the pilgrims who come in person or who visit it through digital platforms and other means of communication. May they all find comfort here and peace!

Thank you, and please pray for me with the intercession of St. Joseph.

Francis