

Saint Andre Bessette

1845-1937

FEAST DAY—JANUARY 6

Born in Canada, Andre worked for three years in the United States as a weaver and manual laborer. After returning to Canada in 1870, he joined the Congregation of Holy Cross and took final vows in 1874. For decades, Brother Andre humbly served his community near Montreal as doorman, janitor, barber, gardener and infirmarian. With St. Joseph as his model and intercessor, he developed a healing ministry and huge following. In 1904, he moved into Montreal to help build the Oratory of the Holy Cross, and remained there for the rest of his life. When this “Miracle Man of Montreal” was canonized in 2010, Pope Benedict XVI said he “lived the beatitude of the pure of heart.”



CNS photo/archives of St. Joseph's Oratory



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