

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?" 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.

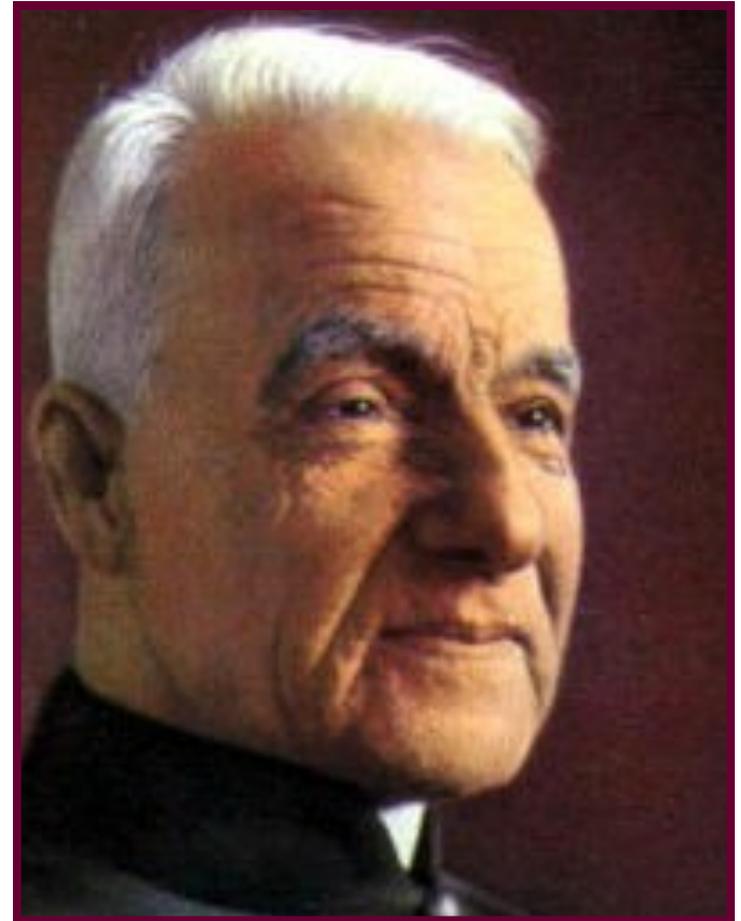
Despite financial troubles, Brother Andre never lost faith or devotion. He had started to build a basilica on the mountain but the Depression had interfered. At ninety-years old he told his co-workers to place a statue of St. Joseph in the unfinished, unroofed basilica. He was so ill he had to be carried 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.

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## **NOVENA TO SAINT ANDRE BESSETTE**

**Recited from: December 28th through January 5th  
(Ordinary Time)**



**Feast Day: January 6th**

## Novena

The word Novena derives its name from the Latin word "novem" meaning "nine." A novena can be either a private or public devotion in the Catholic Church to obtain special graces.

### Novena to Saint Andre Bessette

St. Joseph Novena  
(with the intercession of *Blessed Andre Bessette*)

#### Day 1:

Dear St. Joseph, I love you as my own father. Teach me to love as you love. Teach me to love the Son you raised as you do. Teach me to love your wife as my mother, my friend, my confidant. Teach me to ask in your name, favors of the heart, to lead me closer to the heart of the Divine Son of Mary and your son in grace. Lead me to a knowledge of salvation, a knowledge of my own sinfulness, and a knowledge of the Divine Heart of the Beloved.

I love you St. Joseph, with all my heart. Be for me this day my father, as you are father to Jesus. I love you. Amen.

Dear Blessed Andre, be with me as I pray. Help me to lift my prayers to God, through the hands of St. Joseph and your loving hands. Be always for me my friend. I love you. (*Make Requests.*)

#### Day 2:

My dearest St. Joseph, thank you for all your intercession in the heart of my family. Help my family to be strong in faith, obedient in hope and love, and never ending in praise of God. Help us in all our temporal and spiritual needs. As a family we need a father as the head. Guide the father of our household with the wisdom and knowledge and love that make you the father in your family. Teach us all to love family members with the love we have for ourselves. Make us see in our family life the bonds of love that you had in yours. Help us to grow as a family by nurturing one another and guiding each other in the ways of the Lord.

Be at our side, St. Joseph, in all we do, that our work may be perfect, our love may be perfect, our family may be one as your family is one. Let me not forget your loving guidance and care always. I treasure your love as I treasure you. Help me to see in you the way to God—always. Help me to imitate your virtues of love and kindness, gentleness, peace and joy, and courage in adversity. Help me to know His Divine love through you—*His touch—His heart.*

Dear Brother Andre, my friend and confidant, help me to draw ever closer to God - and ever closer to St. Joseph. Teach me to accept His guidance, the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the guidance of the Holy Virgin Mother of God. I love you. Be with me always as we walk to Him in peace and joy. Amen. Alleluia! (*Make Requests.*)

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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?

### Day 8:

St. Joseph, dear St. Joseph, joy of my heart, be with me as I pray. I love you St. Joseph, with all my heart. Help me to obey God in the little things as well as the big things of life. In all things, help me humbly to obey God. Teach me your gentle humility and love, your peace and joy in God—but most of all, teach me to be pleasing in all things—to obey the Spirit of God within me and never to grieve the Holy Spirit. Teach me obedience in all things—to God, to my neighbor, to the church, to my most Holy Mother in Heaven. To each person I meet, may I give the obedience of God asked of me at the moment. In each circumstance, may I look to God and discern His will, that I may be obedient to Him. In love I come. In love I obey. In obedience I teach others the way to God. May I always follow His way. May I always be enlightened by God and illuminated by His Holiness and peace. I love you. Guide me please in all things and be my constant companion until I reach my heavenly goal. Amen

Blessed Andre, be with me as I pray. I honor you this day and through this novena for your special devotion to St. Joseph. Please teach me to be like Him in faith and walk with Him always. As I walk with you, teach me also your humble, obedient love. I love you. Amen. *(Make Requests.)*

### Day 9:

Dear St. Joseph, lover of my heart, comfort to those in affliction, patron of the dying and the Universal Church, hold my hand as we walk to Him in peace. Help me to draw ever closer to God each day. Help me to see you in Him, as we walk as one. Help me to know your heart, too. Help me to be to the best of my ability that which God desires me to be—one with Him. Help me, St. Joseph, to recognize the graces given me, and use them for the greater glory of God—that no grace is wasted, but all seen and used.

Help me as a father would, dear St. Joseph. Help me to draw ever closer to Mary, our Beloved Mother in Heaven. Help me to know her heart. Help me in all I do and say. Be with me in a special way—that I may always know I can rely on you.

I shall call your name, St. Joseph, in time of need, but also to be with me each and every day, each moment of my life—that we may always walk as one. Teach me those things I must know for my salvation. Help me in time of trial always to see God and rejoice in Him. Be with me always. I love you. Amen. Alleluia!

I love you St. Joseph. Be a father to me as you are to Jesus. Amen.

Brother Andre, my dear friend, place before the Throne of God, my desire to be like Him in all things—to love as He loves—to live as He lived—to be as He is—for all, always. I love you. *(Make Requests.)*

### Day 3:

Dear St. Joseph, I love you with all my heart. Hear my prayers and my supplications. Hear my honor given the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. Be for me a faithful friend who will go to them in time of need, in time of joy, in time of heartache, in time of love. Be for me a friend who will ceaselessly place before the Throne of God all my intentions and love. Be for me a way to see deeper and more clearly, the mysteries of God—His love for me—His generosity—His humility—His Humanity and Divinity as one. Be for me a way to draw closer to Him in love. Be my friend always. Rest not until *all* have become one in His love.

I leave my heart with you this day—to place before God in His love. Cease not to place my intentions before Him. Place before Him my love first, then place before Him my cares and joys, my wants and desires, my needs, my all. All in His love I give you. All in His love is mine. I love you. Amen.

Blessed Andre, be for me a friend this day and always in His love. Let me know you, too, my friend, in a deeper, special way. Let me know what it is to walk, just a little, in your way that now St. Joseph will be my friend in a very special way. Amen. *(Make Requests.)*

### Day 4:

Dear St. Joseph, lover of hearts, be for me this day and always, my advocate and guide. Stand up with me when I come before my God, when I meet my Maker, in love. When I come before Him, speak in my behalf. Show Him that I loved, I tried, I stepped out in faith. Though I failed many times in this journey of life, you were always at my side—quietly helping, leading, guiding. Never in the forefront—always behind; renewing and nurturing my soul as only a father can—holding my hand, as only a father can—leading me gently, as only a father can.

Nourish me now St. Joseph, for my walk is not yet over. I need the presence of a father as my work is not yet done. Nourish me on the love you gave your Son—on the trust you had in the Lord—on the fidelity you gave to your God while you walked upon this earth.

I give to you my heart this day to present to the Lord on that final day—the beginning of new life in Him. New life awaits. Come with me, be with me, walk with me always. As the Son you raised draws me in always closer to His heart, be with me to present me as you presented your Son in faith. Draw me in to the Heart of the Divine—that place where you dwell with Him. Offer me as you did that time—that I may be one with Him. Pray with me. Be with me always. Show me your love. I give you mine as we walk together in faith and grace.

Be with me, Blessed Andre, that we may walk with Him, be with Him, live with Him always. Teach me to love St. Joseph as you do. Teach me to know him deeper and more intimately, that we may walk with him in love, to the Divine Love—always. Amen! *(Make Requests.)*

### Day 5:

Dearest St. Joseph, I come to you with love—to ask your love and assistance for my family, for this world. So much is going on that I cannot be a part of it all, cannot understand it all, cannot live it without divine assistance. Be my assistance St. Joseph, in my trials and tribulations, in my attitudes and daily walk with the Lord. Teach me to walk, St. Joseph, as you did—in humility and love, in patience and peace, in joy and adoration of the Lord. In adulation I come to you. I ask your help and guidance always—for myself and for my family, for my friends and neighbors, my relatives and those dear to me, that all may walk as one to Him.

I love you, St. Joseph, with all my heart. Be with me as I come humbly before the Lord in prayer. Offer with me the prayers, the love, the adoration I owe the Divine Love—that I may be made perfect, whole, and one in His love—with all.

With you I walk always. Teach me to pray, to meditate on the mysteries of life, of love, of the Beloved. Teach me to pray as you did while here on earth—to accept the Lord's will for me, to offer up the world in faith, and to practice virtue in all forms in my life. Be my advocate, my guide, my assistance, in this life—that as we walk together in this life, we walk toward the Divine Light and union with God. Be my friend in all things and never leave my side. I love you. Amen.

Blessed Andre, be for me also my advocate and guide in this life, that I may walk in union with Him, in union with all and attain the Divine Union with God that I strive for. I love you. *(Make Requests.)*

### Day 6:

Dear St. Joseph, my loving father in grace, protector of my soul, wisdom of my heart's delight—be with me as I pray. Bring forth in me a deep desire to please the Lord in all things—to do for the Lord that which He has called me to do in His love. Be for me this day a father, as you were a father to Jesus. Teach me to walk with Him, be with Him, please Him in all things. Teach me to pray as you taught your Son-in-love to pray. Teach me to be creative in my love and rest not until my heart rests in Him, resides in Him, dwells in His Presence always. Be for me a protector of my soul that I may walk to God in peace and leave behind the worldly desires that keep me from Him in His love. You walked in faith. Teach me to walk in faith. You walked in charity and love. Teach me to walk this way—to Him, through you, in love. Teach me, St. Joseph, what it is to be a Father-in-Love of our Savior. Teach me the way to His heart through you. Teach me to love as you love, pray as you pray, be with all and for all as you are. I love you. Walk with me. Amen.

Blessed Andre, thank you. Bless you my friend for walking with me. Each day be with me in my journey to the Lord. I love you. Amen. *(Make Requests.)*

### Day 7:

Dear St. Joseph, I love you. Come with me on this journey of love. Come with me, teach me, show me the way. Help me to find my Savior as you did—in my heart, in my home, in my work, in my loves, in my family, in fact, in all that I do, think, or say. He is here. Be with me. As we are with Him, show me the —to His heart in love.

I know you are my own dear father too—as you were for Jesus. Teach me as a father, to know, love, and serve God—always—in each instance and circumstance—*always* knowing that He is with me.

I love you St. Joseph. Show me *your* way—the way to the Father, the Son, and the Spirit in love. Show me how to do as you do, be as you are, and leave me not alone in my walk to and with God. I love you. Always I will keep you in my heart as you keep me in yours. Bless me St. Joseph and be for me a father. I love you. Yes.

Come with me, Blessed Andre, in my walk with God. Come with me as I take the hand of St. Joseph. Come with me and show me your truest dear friend—here on earth and now above. I love you. Yes. *(Make Requests.)*