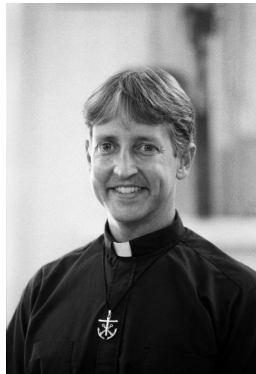


The Open Door

From the Director



Fr. Eric Schimmel, C.S.C.

Great joy fills my heart as I reflect on things that have been happening and will be happening here at André House. The biggest news, of course, is that on Sunday, October 17th, Br. André Bessette, CSC will be canonized a saint. Although we may know the names of many saints or seen quite a few depicted in paintings, murals or stain glass windows, it remains relatively rare that someone is officially canonized. That the humble Holy Cross Brother from Montreal who had a ministry of hospitality – and therefore for whom we named André House – will be officially declared a saint is a great blessing. Br. Richard and I will both attend the canonization in Rome. I have written an article inside this newsletter about Br. André and about canonization. Hope that you enjoy it.

I also feel very blessed with the staff that we have, and the incredible support of you, the André House community. You may recall that in our last Open Door newsletter I mentioned that the recruiting for Core Staff was not progressing as we would like. I also asked people if they would consider committing to help us out covering some of our services. By the grace of God, in addition to Br. Richard and me, we have five people who are on Core Staff. You will meet some of them with their articles in this newsletter. Not all of them are able to make the traditional full-time commitment to André House, but I can attest for the commitment and zeal to minister together to our brothers and sisters in need. They are doing a great job.

In addition to the new Core, several people have stepped forward to offer their help with laundry, showers, gate, the Pascente office, clothing closet, and in other areas. I am humbled by the dedication and commitment of so many who generously offer their time and talents on a regular basis here at André House. This experience has reconfirmed my sense that André House really is a work of the people as we reach out to people who need a hand right now. It has also strengthened my trust in Divine Providence. If God really wants us to keep living the Corporal Works of Mercy and helping each other – and I believe God does – then God will show a way for this to be done. Thank you to all who are helping, and to the many who help us through your prayers that I see are definitely being answered.

We also have good news to report about our efforts to install solar systems. Through the generosity of APS (our power company), we have successfully installed solar water heaters on all of the buildings that we own. They are working well. We also have recently received a grant from the Arizona Department of Commerce that will pay most of the costs to install solar panels on the Men's and Women's Transitional Houses for solar electricity. *cont'd on next page*

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I Love My Work at André House

- by Alicia Padilla



During my first two months at André House, I have learn so much. I have learned that there are many interesting, intelligent, and caring people living on the streets of Phoenix. One of our guests, “back in the day,” was a college professor. At one time he was full of many wonderful thoughts and ideas that would help so many less fortunate children. Sadly, today he finds himself the one in need.

We also have many volunteers that come on a regular basis to help the staff perform our regular weekly duties and ease our work load. We could not make it through the week without all of our volunteers and their kind hearts.

Some of the experiences with guest have been humorous, and they put a smile on my face and make me laugh. I love my work at André House and helping those that are in need. I am anxious to continue my work here because it gives me a different look upon life and the things and people around me. During the next ten months I am sure that I will have many more stories and experiences.



From the Director, - cont'd from previous page

- by Fr. Eric Schimmel, CSC

Finally, we are in the process of considering updates to our website and having a greater presence on the web. As we do that, you will see some more links to things on our website – such as links to information about Br. André, the canonization, and hopefully links to a website that will have some video of the canonization. I also have been invited by the vocation office of Holy Cross to write a blog entry once a month about André House. My blogs get posted the first Tuesday of every month. You can find them at: <http://cscpriestsandbrothers.blogspot.com>. On the right hand column of that webpage you can go to the “labels” section and click on André House to find my blogs. Hope you enjoy them.

Know that as Br. Richard and I attend the canonization we will be praying in a special way for all of you.

God bless,
Fr. Eric



*Check out Fr. Eric's
blogs which are posted
on the first Tuesday of
every month.*



Allowing Others to Help Me

- by Lauren Rogers

In the 30 years of my life, I have been blessed to have a great family, amazing friends, and a roof over my head. Over the last several years, through my discernment, I came to realize that I have a calling to serve those who have much less. I came to André House from Beaumont, Texas, at the very end of July to serve those who were less fortunate than I. What I did not expect was to learn so much in such a short time from those I am serving.



On Sunday afternoons, from 1:00pm until about 3:45pm, I serve as porter. I hang around outside to hand out bottles of cold water to our thirsty guests and let them know when we have our different services during the week. Most Sundays, around 2:30pm, I have several guests that always come to just sit, hang out, and talk. Many of them help clean up the parking lot and the deck area as well as help those volunteers who come out of the building with trash bags. Sometimes, when we have wonderful people come to donate much needed items, they help me load the cart with the heavier boxes and bags so I can wheel them into the building.

The first couple of weeks I had a hard time letting guests help with this. I have always been the type of person who has a hard time asking for help. Besides, I came to André House to serve our guests, not have them do things that I should be doing for them. One Sunday about four weeks ago two of the guests sat down with me to talk about it. They wanted me to know that they were very grateful for what André House does for them. By coming here they can get many of their basic needs met; however, we provide our guests with so

much more. We sit, talk, and listen to them. By doing just this, they feel like a human being instead of like another faceless homeless person. In the same way, by letting them help with the little things like cleaning the parking lot, taking out the trash, and loading carts with heavier items, it allows them to feel like they have a purpose. The two guests said that for some, it keeps them out of

trouble by giving them a place to come and stay busy; and in turn, they do not go and hang around with the 'bad crowds'. They feel a sense of belonging at André House. They receive so much from us, they feel this is a way to thank us.

After our talk, it was time for me to head out to cover the André House Men's Transitional Home. I left with much to think about. Our guests need help with basic needs, but they also need to feel like they are still needed. I am more aware of this aspect now. As the year progresses I hope to become more aware of ways to be more present for our guests and to understand them as individual people instead of as a large group with a label.

✻



Br. André Bessette, CSC - Saint

-by Fr. Eric Schimmel, CSC

This month we at André House celebrate an incredible event. Br. André Bessette, CSC, for whom André House is named, will officially be canonized a saint. Most of us are familiar with saints like St. Francis of Assisi and St. Clair, St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Theresa the Little Flower. The canonization of Br. André is an act of faith in which the Catholic Church publicly proclaims Br. André is in heaven interceding for us, and miracles have been attributed to his intercession – including miracles after his death. The canonization will take place in Rome on Sunday, October 17, 2010.

As we celebrate this momentous event, we thought that we should include in this Open Door newsletter a little bit about our special patron for André House.

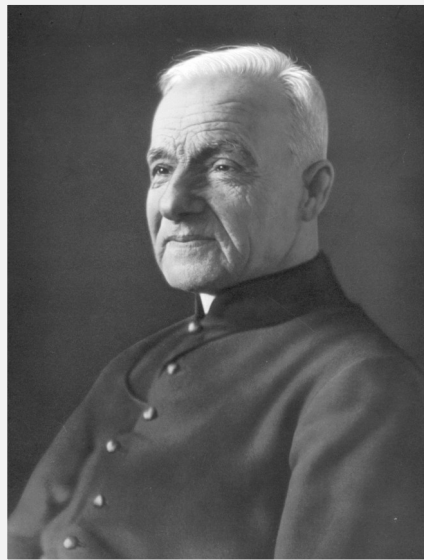
Brother André was born Alfred Bessette in 1845 in Quebec. Alfred was orphaned by the time he was twelve and received little formal education. As a young man, he spent time in New England working at different farms, factories and trades, but he eventually returned to Quebec. In 1870 he entered the Holy Cross Novitiate, where he took the name André.

In 1871, Brother André was assigned as the porter, or doorkeeper, at Notre Dame College in Montreal, a post he held until 1909. He answered the door and did numerous other manual tasks in a spirit of humility, obedience, and love for others. Often his hospitality entailed spending much of the day receiving and consoling people who were poor and sick, as well as visiting homes and hospitals.

Brother André had a special devotion to Saint Joseph. He presented many sick visitors with medals of the saint and anointed them with oil that came from an oil lamp burning in the College's chapel next to a Saint Joseph statue.

In giving this oil to the sick, Brother André always insisted that the hoped-for healing was the work of Saint Joseph and not himself. He promised to pray to God through Saint Joseph's intercession.

Brother André Bessette's approach to prayer was marked by simplicity and directness. "When praying," he said, "one speaks to God as one speaks to a friend." He prayed for those who visited him and also meditated intensely on the Passion of Christ. He urged others to pray with confidence and perseverance, while remaining open to God's will. He admonished people to begin their path to healing through commitments to faith and humility, through confession and a return to the sacraments. He encouraged the sick to seek a doctor's care. He saw value in suffering that is joined to the sufferings of Christ. Word spread quickly when many of those with whom he prayed were healed, and visitors always found solace and grace in Brother André's



readiness to listen to their concerns. He allowed himself to be fully present to the sadness of others but retained a fundamentally joyful nature and good humor. Nevertheless, at times he was seen weeping along with his visitors as they recounted their sorrows.

The growing crowds coming to visit him prompted his superiors to relocate his visitations to a small trolley station across the street. He was becoming known as a miracle worker, but Brother André insisted all the more, "I am nothing...only a tool in the hands of Providence, a lowly instrument at the service of Saint Joseph."

Crowds at the trolley station became unmanageable, so a small chapel was built nearby. Construction began in 1904, and two expansions followed in the next several years. Brother André Bessette's hope for a more sub-

Br. André Bessette, CSC - Saint

- cont'd from previous page

stantial shrine to Saint Joseph, located on Mount Royal above the city of Montreal, stimulated large and small donations from many of the people whose lives had been touched by the holy man.

The Congregation of Holy Cross already owned property that would be suitable. Construction on what would become known as Saint Joseph's Oratory began in 1914. A crypt church seating 1,000 was completed in 1917. By the 1920's the Oratory hosted over one million pilgrims annually, and hundreds of cures were attributed to his prayers every year. The grand basilica towering above that church took another 50 years to complete. Brother André Bessette, C.S.C. died in Montreal on January 6, 1937, before the Oratory had been completed. It is estimated that over a million people visited his body outside the Oratory during the week following his death. He was beatified on May 23, 1982, and he will be canonized on October 17, 2010.

In 1999 a nine year old boy had been the victim of an automobile accident, in which he suffered a serious cranial injury and an irreversible coma leading towards death. Those closest to him prayed for him and sought the intercession of Br. André. The child regained his consciousness and health, something which many medical experts deemed scientifically unexplainable. This is the miracle that has led the Church to decide to include Br. André in the official canon, or list, of recognized saints.

In a homily at the beatification of Brother André, Pope John Paul II said: "A daily crowd of the sick, the afflicted, the poor of all kinds - those who were handicapped or wounded by life - came to him. They found in his presence a welcome ear, comfort and faith in God. Do not the poor of today have as much need of such love, of such hope, of such education in prayer?" We hope and pray that, through Br. André's intercession, all who come through our Open Door at André House may find the same kind of comfort, welcome, and hope arising from faith in God that Br. André offered to those who came to him. Br. André Bessette, CSC, pray for us.



Fr. Eric

For more information about Brother André Bessette, CSC, please visit the Holy Cross vocation office's webpage: <http://vocation.nd.edu/community/br-andre-bessette-c-s-c/>



Let The Last Be First
-by Valerie Bemann



“But many who are first will be last; and the last first”

(Matt 19:30)


My first week at André House last August was a “make it or break it” moment. The aroma of un-showered human bodies, clothed and drenched in sweat from the hot Phoenix sun, turned my stomach. After one day, bending down to clean showers and bathrooms brought me to the realization that I will be doing this for a whole year. I asked myself if I would be able to fulfill my promise I made to myself, humanity, and André House. The answer was yes; I must give of myself for another and let the last be first; last in the eyes of the American society. Kneeling and washing the feet of the homeless and poor brings new meaning outside of Holy Thursday.

On this first day of October, I thank God for the courage given to me to be at André House with the guests and the staff. I will continue to share the gifts and the talents God has so freely given to me to share at André House. I have rediscovered the importance of ministering to the guests, learning from the stories shared, the companionship of the André House staff, and the mission as the Body of Christ.

Let us pray for Fr. Eric and Br. Richard as they travel to Rome for the canonization of Br. André Bessette, who began our mission of hospitality in the 19th century. ✠

Thanksgiving Eve Memorial Service

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November is a month of remembrance in the Catholic Church. Because of this, on Wednesday, November 24th, Thanksgiving Eve, the André House community of staff, volunteers, and benefactors gather at White Tanks Cemetery in Litchfield Park to remember all of the homeless men and women who have died. This powerful memorial service is a reminder to all of us of the brevity of our life on earth and prepares us to truly give thanks on Thanksgiving Day for the many blessings in our lives.

Every Thursday, deceased homeless and indigent persons for whom no relatives can be found to assume burial responsibilities are laid to rest in the bleak White Tanks Cemetery. Present to honor them are only the members of a chain gang from local prison, who provide the labor, and a rotating minister or priest to offer burial prayers. The André House staff presides over these services several times a year.

The service will begin at the White Tanks Cemetery no later than 8:00pm.

Life of Service and Community

- by Matt Linderman

We are about to start serving dinner, and I am outside visiting with a guest who is explaining to me that he has come to Arizona to fix it (Lord knows Arizona needs some fixing.) Right now he is working on a skyscraper that instantly retracts into the ground when a plane flies at it. Awesome! Yep. Just another ordinary day at André House and I must say, I am very glad to be back. After a year away since my first year on staff, I've had the opportunity to return while also going to school, and I consider myself very blessed. There are two things that I have really missed about André House and that have led to my return. I hope that others who come to André House (both guests and volunteers) in some way experience and benefit from these two things as well. They are a life of service for others and community.

A good dose of selfless service does the soul good. As many people in today's world are looking for ways to overcome loneliness or despair and find instead a life of joy, fulfillment, and purpose, I have become increasingly convinced that in serving others, we are able to adjust our gaze from an inward one to an outward one. We become less concerned with ourselves and more aware of others and their needs. It is the old paradox that in giving we receive. I know that this has been true for me. When I am serving others is when I feel most alive. As Gandhi put it, "The greatest way to find your self is to lose yourself in service to others."

Community is the other thing that I really value here at André House. Like service, I believe that we were all created for community, and where we find community we find our lives to be a little bit richer. I consider it a great blessing to be living in community with other André House staff, but our community goes way beyond that to include our guests, volunteers, and all who are involved in our work here. In a way, this is like a second family, and for some of our guests, it is more like their main family.

Sad as that might be, I consider it such a privilege to have the opportunity to develop those friendships, to learn from each other, and to just be a part of each other's lives.

Obviously, a life of service and community living have their challenges too, but the blessings more than make up for them; and besides, it is the challenges that make us better people. We begin to see ourselves and our relationships in the way that God intended us to, and we are able to become more the people that we were created to be. My hope is that all people who come to André House in some way experience the joy of these gifts themselves; that they would be encouraged and uplifted by what they find at André House; that they would be given a greater desire for both community and a life of loving service; and that they may find the blessings that come with them - whether at André House or elsewhere.

✂



A Walk Through the Soupline

-by Andrew Lugo



One day, I decided to walk amongst the people that we served here at André House, following the same routine that they must

follow in order to get a meal. It was a Saturday afternoon, probably around 109 degrees outside. The line was just starting to hit 11th Ave, beginning to wrap around the Hospitality Center. I got in line scarcely after 4:30pm, but just missed the chance to grab a nice, cold bottle of water that the André House staff hands out at that time. I know, I have been serving here for around a month and a half, and I missed the time that the staff hands out bottled water?! So I stand there, waiting in the hot sun, with no shade close by, waiting for 5:00pm to roll around so that we can get our tickets and go eat.

In the meantime, I am talking with some of the guests around me, discussing various things that we can talk about. However, I think most of them were talking with each other, wondering why I was waiting in line with them.

Finally, five o'clock rolls around, and the front gate person starts handing out the tickets to go sit on the benches. I personally was hoping that I wouldn't have to sit with the initial round of people who get to sit on the benches first, that way I can stand longer outside to talk more with the guests, but I ended up getting to sit down anyway. I was handed a ticket, number 68, and took my seat as the second person in row three. And then I sat there, waiting to be let into the dining room when my row got called. But until then, I sat there, on my bench, talking with everyone who was close by. Two guys in row one noticed me and were wondering why I was sitting in the bench area. I wish they hadn't

said anything, because it brought a lot of unwanted attention to me. Everyone on the benches was looking at me and trying to figure out why I was there. This must have been the same feeling that Jesus felt when they saw Him sitting and dining with sinners. I told them I wondered what it was like to wait in line for dinner and to see how the food tasted during dinner service versus eating it later at our Polk Street Transitional Homes. They then offered their CASS ID cards to me so that I could sleep in the nearby Overflow Shelter for the night with them! It was nice of them to do that for sure, but it just wasn't on my agenda for the evening.

So, I continued to talk to the guy who was sitting on my right, for I never noticed him at our building before. He seemed a little ill, but I learned why he was on the streets and why he was in the situation he was in. In the midst of our conversation, everyone pointed at me when a girl started to ask for some assistance. She was looking for a plane ticket to get out of Phoenix, but I had to tell her that André House does not offer assistance with transportation and referred her to some places that might be able to aid with bus fare instead.

Shortly after she left, the doors open. It is 5:30pm, and it is time to eat; almost anyway. First I need to wait for my row to be called so that I can enter the building. After about ten minutes, row three is called to come in and eat. I enter, staying in the single file line for our row. I hand my ticket to the young lady watching middle gate, grab my piece of plastic ware, and jump into line one to get my tray of food. I meet the volunteers who are assisting on the serving line, and whom have no idea that I am an André House staff member. They think I am another homeless person who is coming through their line. Tonight's menu: goulash, fruit salad, green salad, a piece of bread, and a dessert. In all honesty, I thought the portions were a little small for my hungry self; but if I want seconds, I'll need to exit the building, go around to the line, get another ticket, and wait...just like everyone else. I grab my tray that the volunteers so graciously made, and I go find a place to sit in the

A Walk Through the Soupline

- cont'd from previous page

dining room.

I don't really know a lot of the homeless guests who are eating in the dining room, so I try to find the ones who I know who are peaceful, and I have talked to the most. I end up sitting with a bunch of people near the water table. I sit there, eating my meal and enjoying my conversations with the various guests around me. A few guests come up to me. They ask how I have been enjoying my experience and the food. I do have to say, even though I ate all of my meal, the green salad was a little weird, but I think that was because I ate a piece of lettuce that should of have been thrown away. I mentioned it out loud at the table, and I had a guest remind me on how great the food was because 1) he has not eaten in while, so he was pretty hungry and 2) since André House is the only place in the area that serves dinner, one becomes grateful of the service that we provide. That was a great reminder.

I finished my meal but hung around to talk with some of the guests for a little while longer. About 6:10pm, I end up leaving the

dinner service. I take my tray over to where they are being cleaned by the volunteers and hand it over. I walk out the back gate. I just stare out at the sun that is setting behind the giant CASS building across the street and look at all of the people walking on 11th Avenue. I have made it, completed a walk-thru of our dinner service as a guest that we serve, not as a staff member.

This experience was incredibly rewarding for me, trying to understand more and more of what our guests have to go through on a day-to-day basis. After I did my walk through the Soupline, I did get a lot of respect from the guests we serve. To be fair though, walking through the Soupline as a guest was a recommendation from a former staff member. They, too, had a very pleasant experience, both personally and from the guests. All in all, this experience truly represented a walk in someone else's shoes, an experience that will reward me for a long time to come and give me a better understanding of the true mission here at André House.

☪



MAILING LIST

If you have changes to your name or address, OR if you would like to be removed from the André House mailing list, please use the enclosed envelope and send the mailing label on this newsletter with either the changes that need to be made or the word "Remove" on it. The list will be updated before our next mailing.



If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact Teresa Hipp:

Email: coordinator@andrehouse.org
Phone: 602-255-0580 x302

If you leave the information on the voicemail, please leave a phone number in the event there are questions. Thank you!



****André House's mailing list is not sold or given to any other organization****



Arizona Tax Credit **for Contributions to a Qualifying Charity**

A WIN/WIN DEAL!

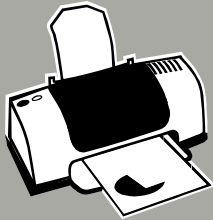
The Arizona State Charitable Tax Credit became easier to take advantage!

No longer requiring a baseline year of giving, donors need only itemize their taxes to benefit from this credit. When you donate to André House, a qualifying charitable organization providing help to the working poor, you can receive the tax credit by completing Form 321 when you file your tax return. Single individuals can earn up to a \$200 dollar-for-dollar tax credit (married, filing jointly, can earn up to \$400.) For complete details:

- Call the AZ Dept of Revenue: 602-255-3381
- Check out the AZ Dept of Revenue website: www.azdor.gov
- Contact your accountant

The benefit of our Arizona Credit for Charities that Help the Working Poor is that the charity gets the money and the donor gets a dollar for dollar reduction of Arizona State tax. How can you lose?





OLD INK CARTRIDGES?

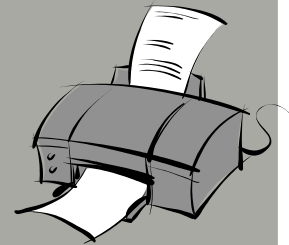
André House happily accepts your old printer ink cartridges & old cell phones. See below for donation address & times.

*Check out our website at
www.andrehouse.org
for a complete list of items we need.*

THANK YOU!



OLD CELL PHONES?



DONATION ADDRESS & TIMES:

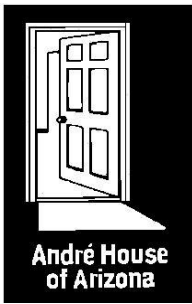
André House Hospitality Center
213 S 11th Av
Phoenix AZ 85007
(Northeast corner of 11th Av & Jackson)

Mon - Thu 10:00am to Noon & 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Fri CLOSED
Sat & Sun 1:00pm - 4:00pm



Thank You!





André House

PO Box 2014
Phoenix, AZ 85001
Phone: 602-252-9023 or 602-255-0580
www.andrehouse.org

The Open Door



**Join us every First
Friday for Mass and
a Potluck Supper at
1203 W Polk at
6:30 pm**



Non-Profit Org
Us Postage
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Phoenix, AZ
Permit No. 2751



André House Needs List: Fall Focus Items....



- Ground Coffee
- Blankets
- Frozen Whole Turkeys & Hams
- White tube socks
- Shampoo (large bottles & travel sizes)
- Jackets & Sweatshirts
- Men's Jeans (sizes 28-38)
- Men's Underwear (sizes 28-38)
- Men's Tennis Shoes (sizes 8-12)
- Sleeping Bags

Thank you & God bless!

