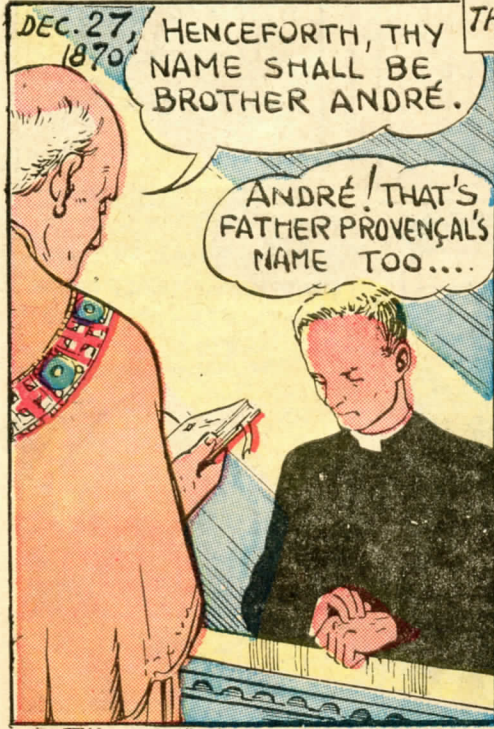


A LETTER FROM FATHER PROVENCAL ANNOUNCED THE NEWCOMER'S ARRIVAL.

*St Césaire -  
Sept. 10. 1870  
Rev. Fr. Julien Gastineau  
I am directing  
a saint to your  
Congregation, and  
am assured that  
fully satisfied*

IN 1870, ALFRED BESSETTE ENTERED THE NOVIATE OF THE RELIGIOUS OF HOLY CROSS, WHICH INSTITUTION HAD BEEN OPENED THE PRECEDING YEAR AT CÔTE-DES-NEIGES, IN SUBURBAN MONTREAL.

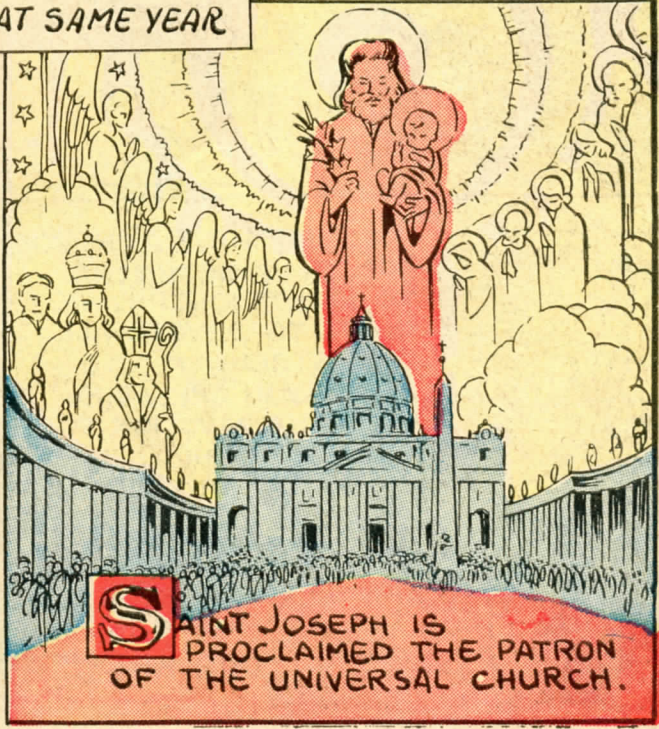


DEC. 27, 1870

HENCEFORTH, THY NAME SHALL BE BROTHER ANDRÉ.

ANDRÉ! THAT'S FATHER PROVENCAL'S NAME TOO....

THAT SAME YEAR



**S** SAINT JOSEPH IS PROCLAIMED THE PATRON OF THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH.



VERY WELL, FATHER.

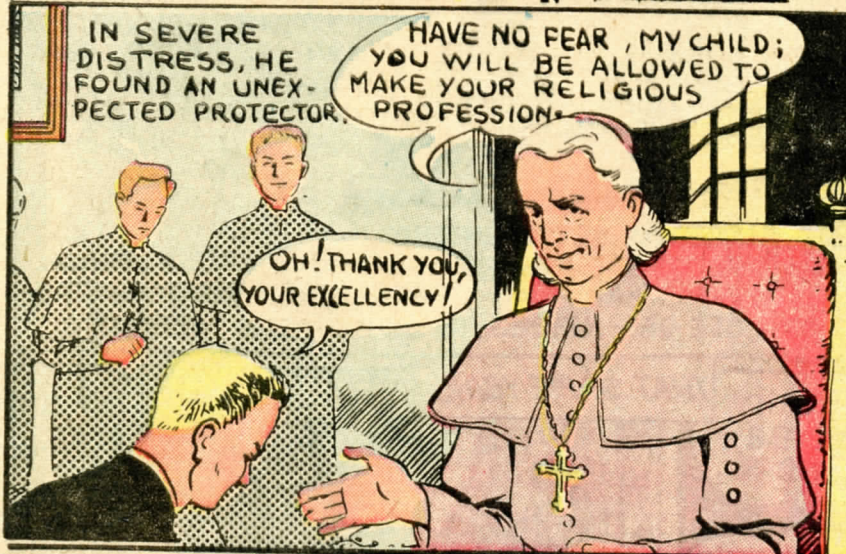
BROTHER ANDRÉ. YOU WILL HAVE CHARGE OF THE LINEN.



I AM AFRAID, BROTHER ANDRÉ, THAT YOUR HEALTH WILL NOT PERMIT YOU TO BE OF MUCH HELP TO THE COMMUNITY.

DO YOU MEAN I SHALL HAVE TO LEAVE?

BUT SEVERAL MONTHS LATER..

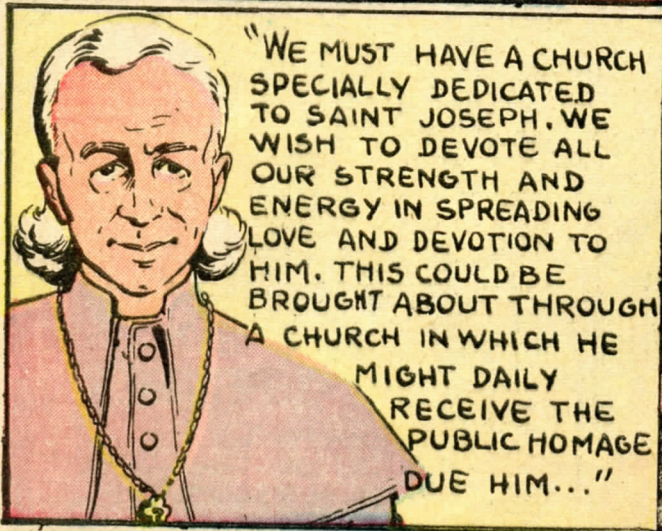


IN SEVERE DISTRESS, HE FOUND AN UNEXPECTED PROTECTOR.

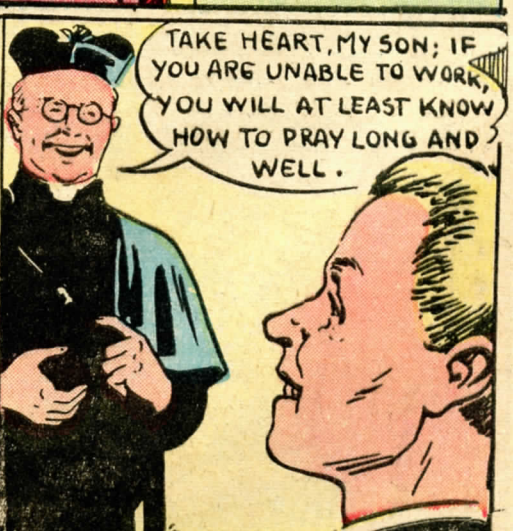
HAVE NO FEAR, MY CHILD; YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO MAKE YOUR RELIGIOUS PROFESSION.

OH! THANK YOU, YOUR EXCELLENCY!

PERHAPS SOME PRESENTIMENT HAD ENTERED BISHOP IGNACE BOURGET'S MIND. HE WAS HIMSELF BESET WITH A STRONG DESIRE TO HONOR SAINT JOSEPH.



"WE MUST HAVE A CHURCH SPECIALLY DEDICATED TO SAINT JOSEPH. WE WISH TO DEVOTE ALL OUR STRENGTH AND ENERGY IN SPREADING LOVE AND DEVOTION TO HIM. THIS COULD BE BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH A CHURCH IN WHICH HE MIGHT DAILY RECEIVE THE PUBLIC HOMAGE DUE HIM..."



TAKE HEART, MY SON; IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO WORK, YOU WILL AT LEAST KNOW HOW TO PRAY LONG AND WELL.

AS A COLLEGE PORTER, BROTHER ANDRE WAS OFTEN IN CONTACT WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE. DRAWN BY HIS GENTLE HUMOUR, THEY CONFIDED THEIR TRIALS AND DIFFICULTIES TO HIM. BROTHER ANDRE ALWAYS ENCOURAGED THEM TO PRAY TO SAINT JOSEPH.

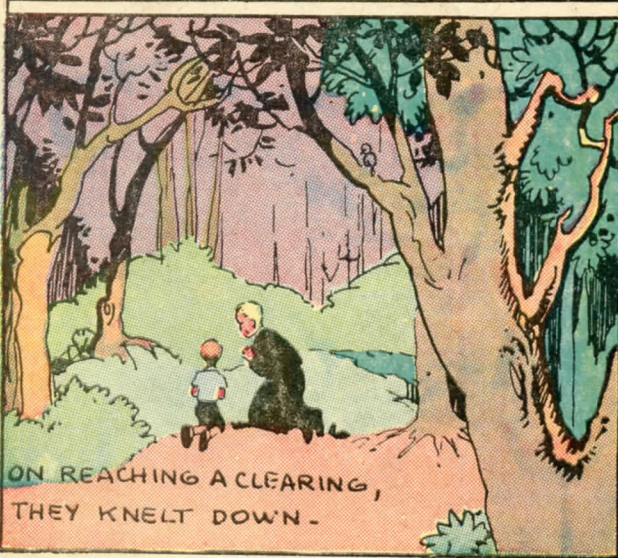
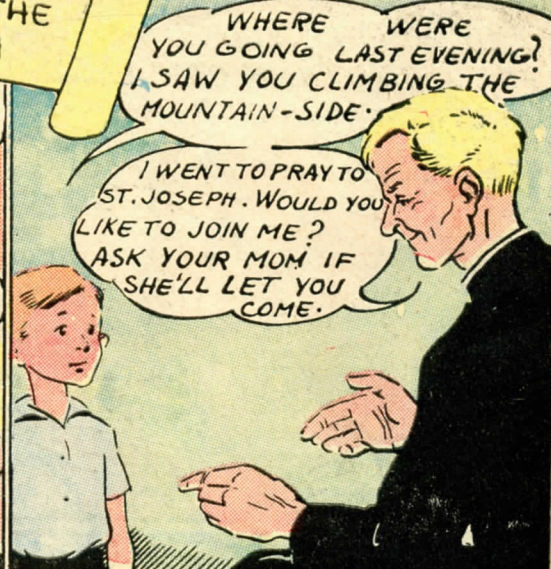
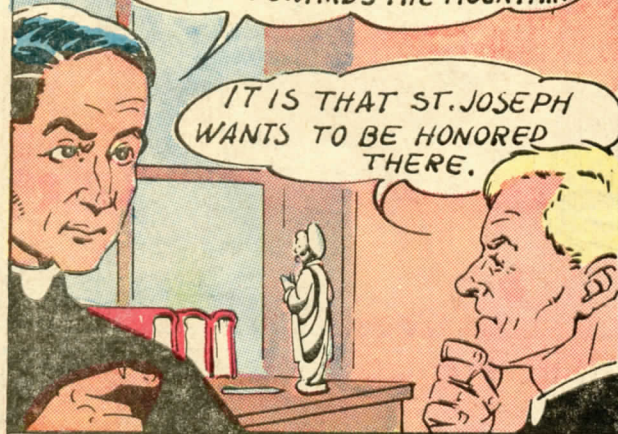
THE YEAR: 1890. ACROSS THE ROAD FROM NOTRE DAME COLLEGE ROSE THE MOUNTAIN HEAVILY COVERED WITH TIMBER.

BROTHER ANDRÉ, CAN YOU EXPLAIN HOW IT IS THAT I ALWAYS FIND MY STATUE OF ST. JOSEPH FACING TOWARDS THE MOUNTAIN

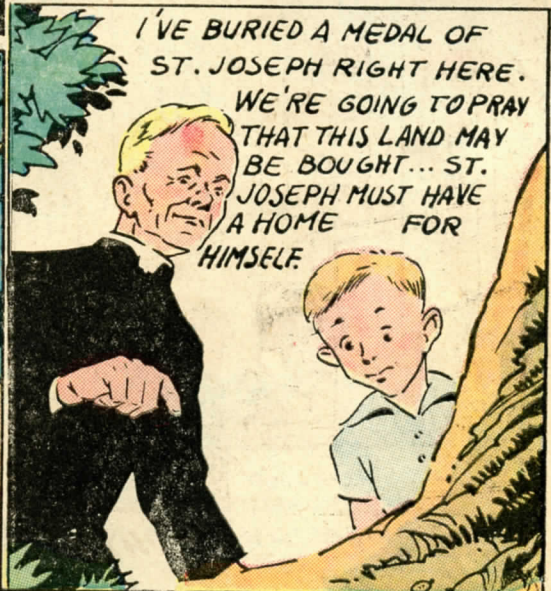
IT IS THAT ST. JOSEPH WANTS TO BE HONORED THERE.

WHERE WERE YOU GOING LAST EVENING? I SAW YOU CLIMBING THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE.

I WENT TO PRAY TO ST. JOSEPH. WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN ME? ASK YOUR MOM IF SHE'LL LET YOU COME.



ON REACHING A CLEARING, THEY KNELT DOWN.

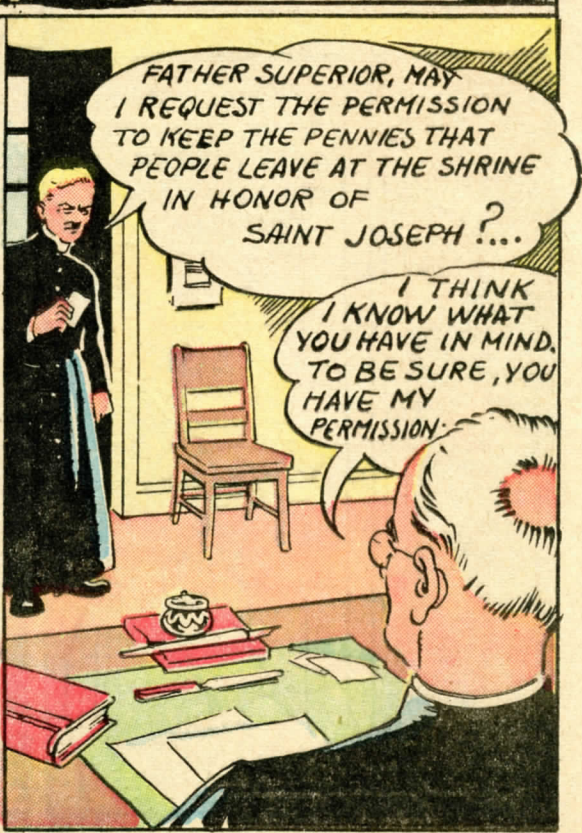
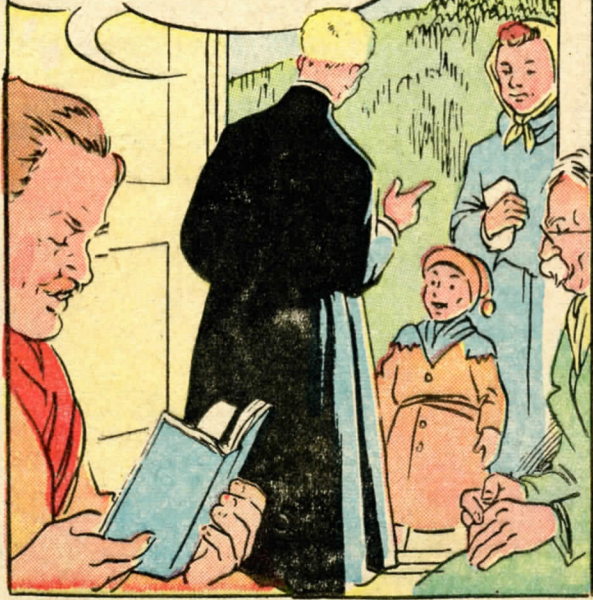


I'VE BURIED A MEDAL OF ST. JOSEPH RIGHT HERE. WE'RE GOING TO PRAY THAT THIS LAND MAY BE BOUGHT... ST. JOSEPH MUST HAVE A HOME FOR HIMSELF.



ON THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE, ACROSS THE ROAD FROM THE COLLEGE, BROTHER ANDRÉ NICHED A STATUETTE OF ST. JOSEPH IN A NATURAL SETTING OF FOLIAGE AND FLOWERS. HE WAS IN THE HABIT OF SPENDING HIS MOMENTS OF LEISURE IN PRAYER BEFORE THIS MINIATURE SHRINE. SHORTLY HE PLACED A MITE BOX AT THE FOOT OF THE LITTLE STATUE TO COLLECT THE OFFERINGS OF POSSIBLE PILGRIMS.

I'M QUITE BUSY JUST NOW. WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A WALK UP THE MOUNTAIN ALONG ST. JOSEPH'S BOULEVARD? AND BY ALL MEANS DON'T FAIL TO PAUSE AND PRAY BEFORE THE TINY SHRINE.

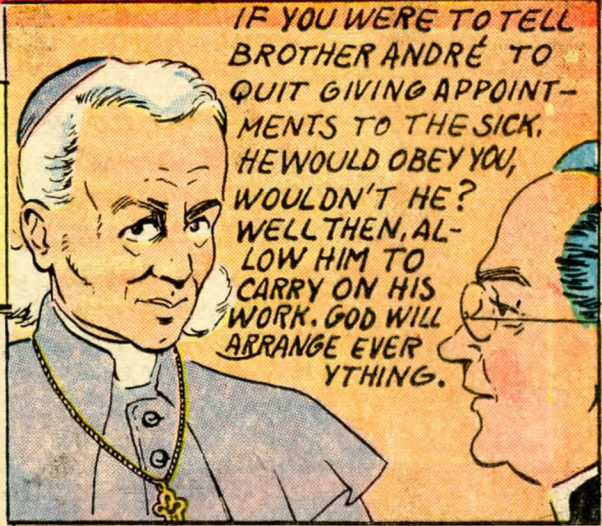


FATHER SUPERIOR, MAY I REQUEST THE PERMISSION TO KEEP THE PENNIES THAT PEOPLE LEAVE AT THE SHRINE IN HONOR OF SAINT JOSEPH?...

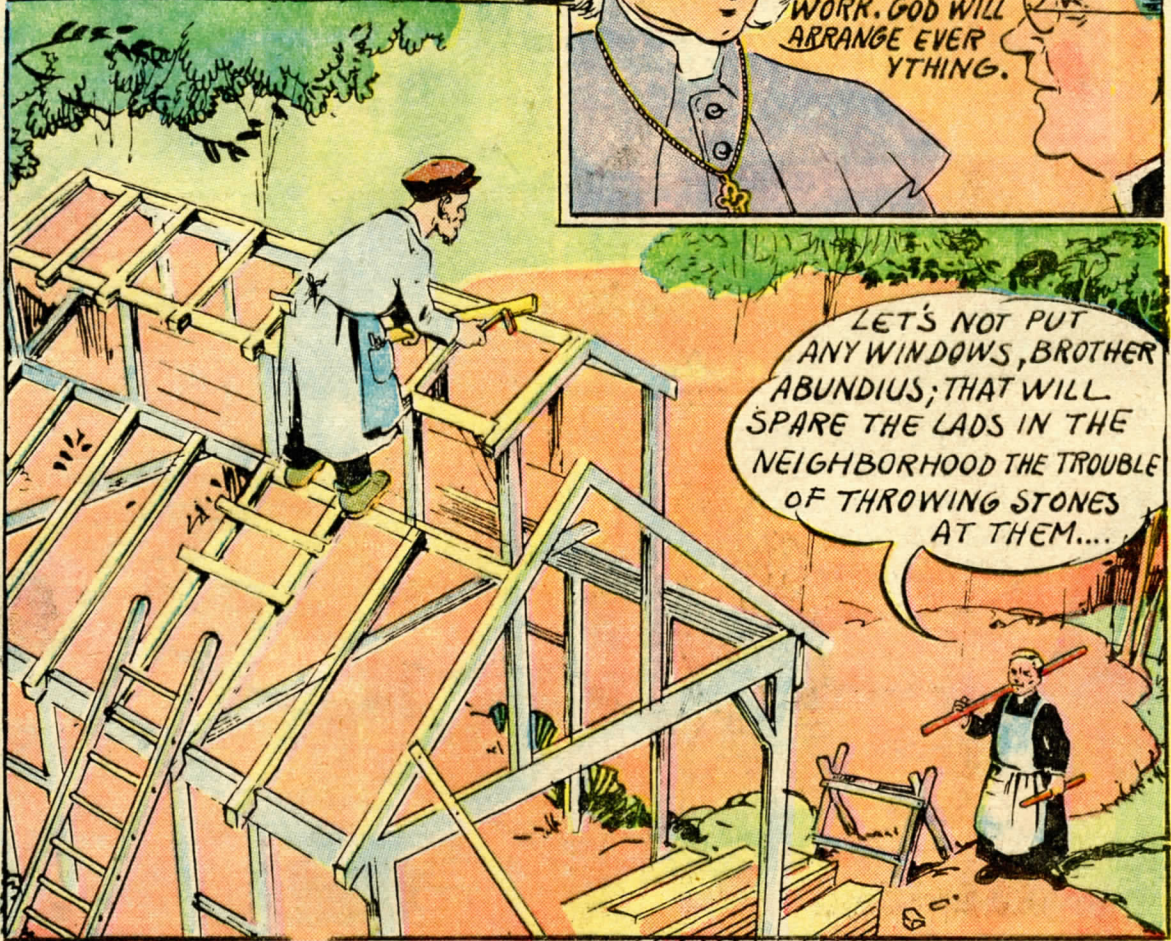
I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE IN MIND. TO BE SURE, YOU HAVE MY PERMISSION.

IN SPITE OF MAJOR DIFFICULTIES, BROTHER ANDRÉ'S MISSION IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE PRONOUNCED EACH DAY. THE ARCHBISHOP OF MONTREAL AND THE SUPERIORS OF HOLY CROSS ARE EXTREMELY CAREFUL NOT TO DO ANYTHING THAT MIGHT ENDANGER THE PLANS OF PROVIDENCE.

IN LATE SUMMER, 1904, BROTHER ANDRÉ WAS GRANTED PERMISSION TO BUILD A LITTLE CHAPEL ON THE MOUNTAIN-SIDE.



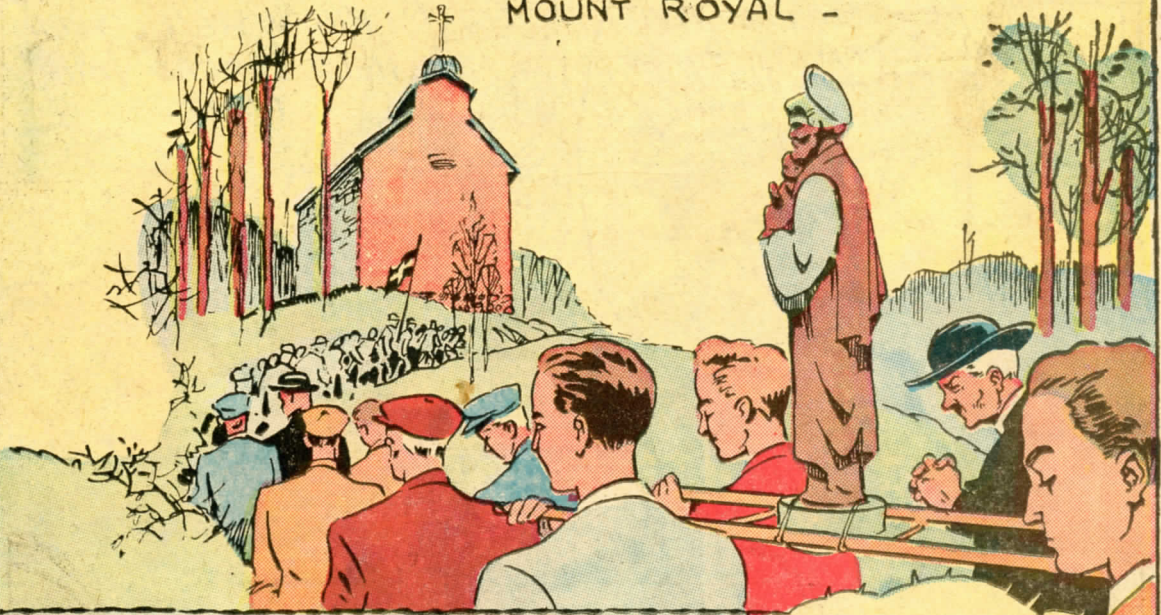
IF YOU WERE TO TELL BROTHER ANDRÉ TO QUIT GIVING APPOINTMENTS TO THE SICK, HE WOULD OBEY YOU, WOULDN'T HE? WELL THEN, ALLOW HIM TO CARRY ON HIS WORK. GOD WILL ARRANGE EVERYTHING.



LET'S NOT PUT ANY WINDOWS, BROTHER ABUNDIUS; THAT WILL SPARE THE LADS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD THE TROUBLE OF THROWING STONES AT THEM....

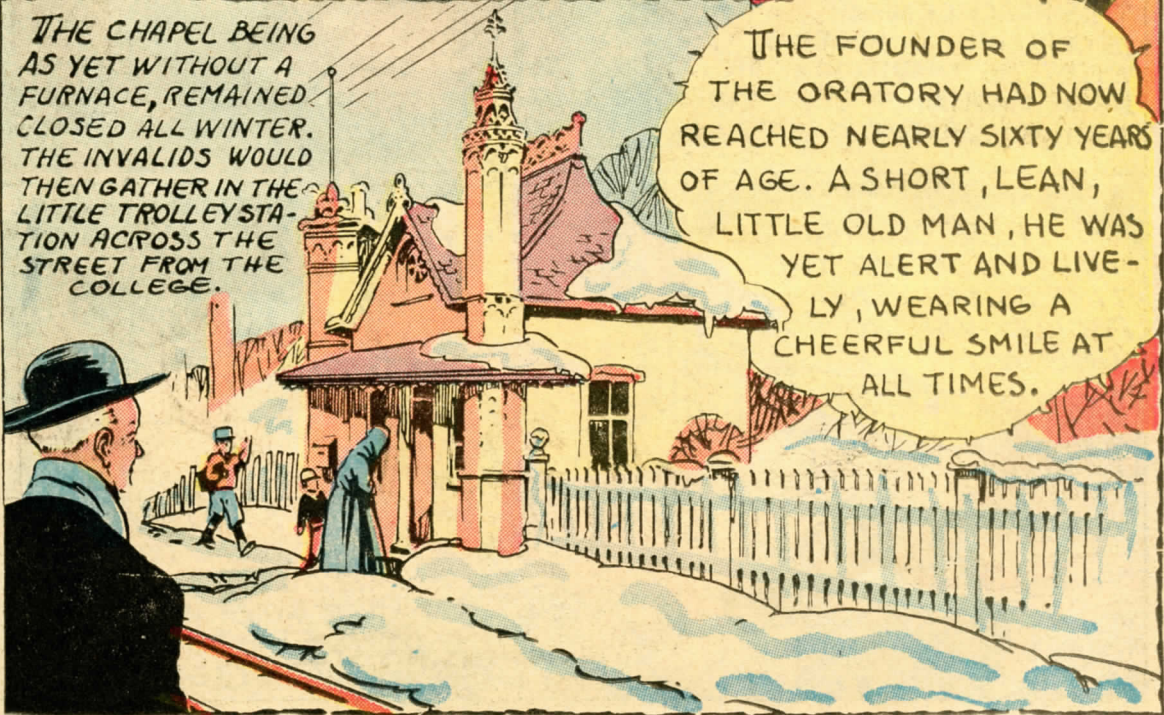
NOVEMBER 19, 1904! A MEMORABLE DAY!

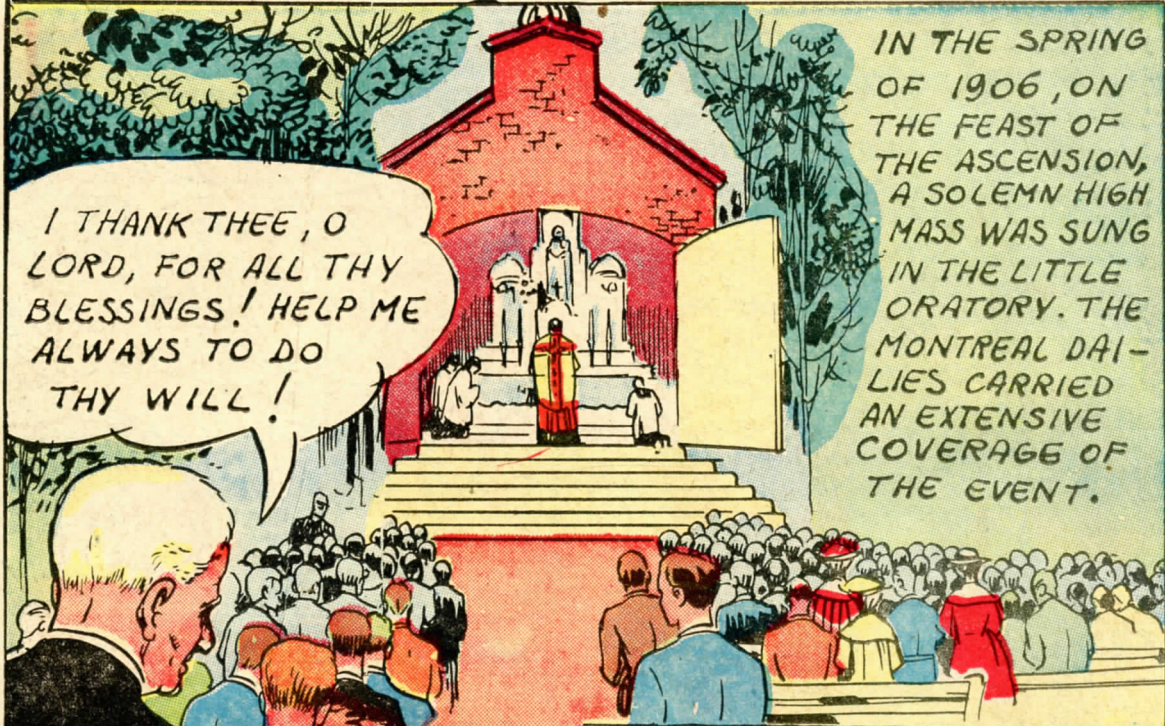
A LOVELY STATUE OF SAINT JOSEPH WAS BLESSED AND CARRIED IN PROCESSION BY THE PUPILS OF NOTRE DAME COLLEGE TO THE ORATORY WHERE MASS WAS OFFERED FOR THE FIRST TIME ON MOUNT ROYAL -



THE CHAPEL BEING AS YET WITHOUT A FURNACE, REMAINED CLOSED ALL WINTER. THE INVALIDS WOULD THEN GATHER IN THE LITTLE TROLLEY STATION ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE COLLEGE.

THE FOUNDER OF THE ORATORY HAD NOW REACHED NEARLY SIXTY YEARS OF AGE. A SHORT, LEAN, LITTLE OLD MAN, HE WAS YET ALERT AND LIVELY, WEARING A CHEERFUL SMILE AT ALL TIMES.





I THANK THEE, O LORD, FOR ALL THY BLESSINGS! HELP ME ALWAYS TO DO THY WILL!

IN THE SPRING OF 1906, ON THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION, A SOLEMN HIGH MASS WAS SUNG IN THE LITTLE ORATORY. THE MONTREAL DAILIES CARRIED AN EXTENSIVE COVERAGE OF THE EVENT.

THEN SUDDENLY, AS A RESULT OF COMPLAINTS FROM VARIOUS QUARTERS, FATHER DION....

I WONDER IF I SHOULD NOT ASSIGN BROTHER ANDRÉ ELSEWHERE, POSSIBLY IN NEW BRUNSWICK!

IN SPITE OF ALL THESE DIFFICULTIES, PEOPLE PERSISTED IN ACCLAIMING BROTHER ANDRÉ AS A WONDER-WORKER. A TRIUMPH WAS IN THE OFFING.

SEE, BROTHER ANDRÉ HAS CURED HER!

WHAT COMFORTS ME IS THAT, IN THE WAKE OF EACH TRIAL, FOLLOWS A NEW DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHRINE.

AS YET, THE ORATORY WAS ONLY A BUD. BUT SOON THE BENEFICENT RAYS OF THE SUN WOULD MAKE IT BLOOM.

THE NEWS OF CURES, CONVERSIONS AND FAVORS OBTAINED STEADILY REACHED THE DIOCESAN AUTHORITIES, WHO ACCORDINGLY ORDERED A CANONICAL INVESTIGATION.

BROTHER ANDRÉ WAS NOT TROUBLED AT ALL OVER THE MEASURE.

- YOUR EXCELLENCY, WE UNANIMOUSLY DECLARE THAT THE DEVOTION OF THE PILGRIMS OF THE ORATORY IS BOTH SINCERE AND IN ACCORD WITH THE DIGNITY OF THE CHURCH.



BECAUSE OF THE EVER INCREASING FLOW OF PILGRIMS, THE FRIENDS OF BROTHER ANDRÉ DECIDED THE TIME WAS RIPE FOR A NEW ATTEMPT...

- SO YOU SEEK THE AUTHORIZATION TO ENLARGE THE CHAPEL, INSTALL ADEQUATE HEATING FACILITIES, BUILD A RESTAURANT FOR PILGRIMS, AND TO PROVIDE A ROOM ON LOCATION FOR BROTHER ANDRÉ?

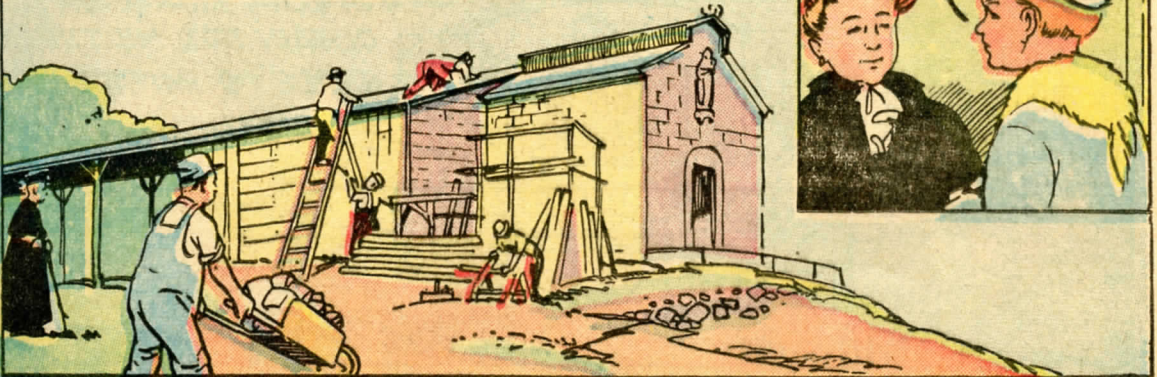
THAT IS CORRECT!

ON SEPTEMBER 14, THE LOCAL COUNCIL OF NOTRE DAME COLLEGE AGREED TO THE REQUEST OF THE ORATORY'S PROMOTERS.



WORK WAS BEGUN ON SEPTEMBER 23, AND SEVERAL WEEKS LATER WALLS WERE ADDED TO HALF OF THE OPEN SHELTER FORMING THE NAVE OF A CHURCH OF WHICH THE ORIGINAL CHAPEL SERVED AS THE SANCTUARY.

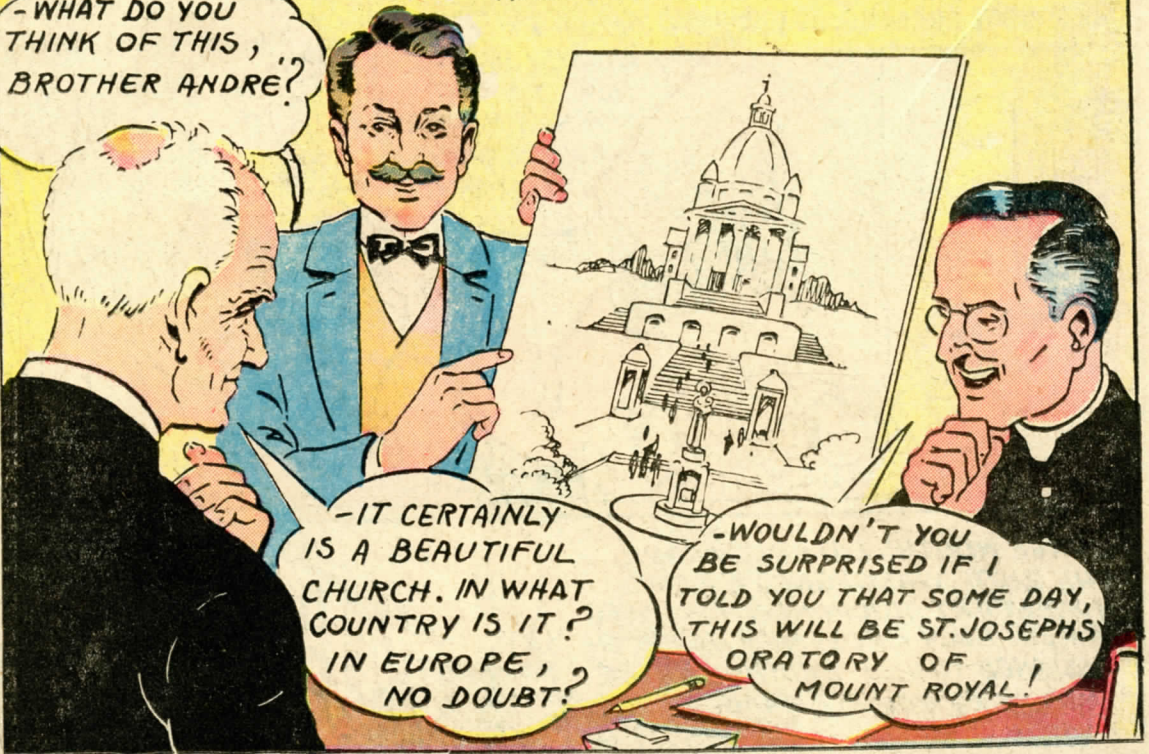
- I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE THE CHAPEL IS NOW HEATED! WE'LL BE SO MUCH MORE AT EASE TO PRAY.





**1915** - THE PERIOD OF DOUBT AND HESITATION IS PAST.  
AND NOW....

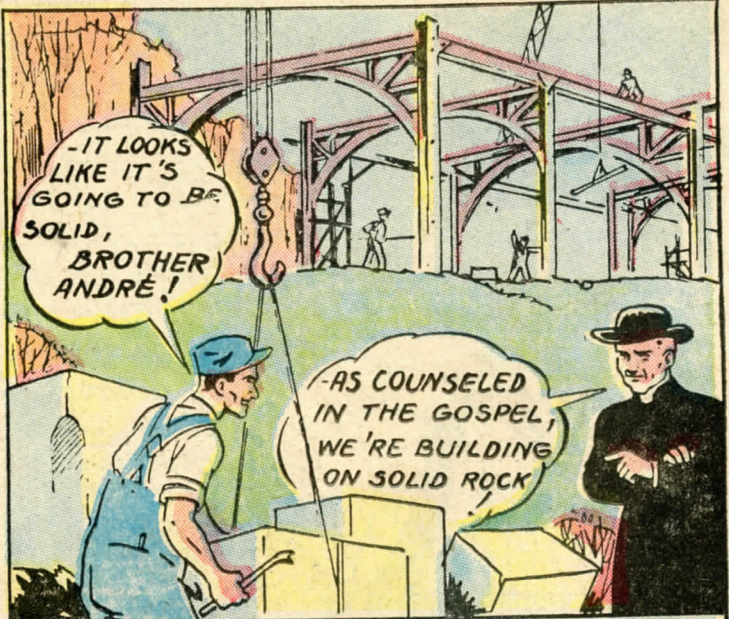
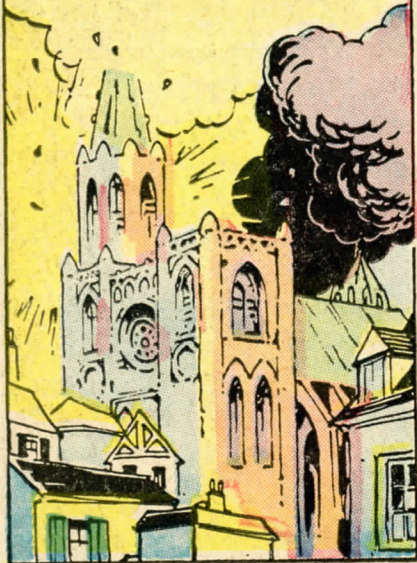
- WHAT DO YOU  
THINK OF THIS,  
BROTHER ANDRE?



- IT CERTAINLY  
IS A BEAUTIFUL  
CHURCH. IN WHAT  
COUNTRY IS IT?  
IN EUROPE,  
NO DOUBT?

- WOULDN'T YOU  
BE SURPRISED IF I  
TOLD YOU THAT SOME DAY,  
THIS WILL BE ST. JOSEPH'S  
ORATORY OF  
MOUNT ROYAL!

AND AT THAT TIME, IN  
EUROPE, THE WAR WAS  
DESTROYING HUNDREDS  
OF CHURCHES.....



- IT LOOKS  
LIKE IT'S  
GOING TO BE  
SOLID,  
BROTHER  
ANDRE!

- AS COUNSELED  
IN THE GOSPEL,  
WE'RE BUILDING  
ON SOLID ROCK

ON THE SLOPE OF MOUNT ROYAL ROSE  
A LARGE, MASSIVE CRYPT-CHURCH, NOT  
UNLIKE A FORTRESS.

ON A CERTAIN AFTERNOON, A GENTLEMAN WHOSE ARM WAS PARALYZED AS THE RESULT OF A STROKE, WALKED INTO BROTHER ANDRÉ'S OFFICE.....



- FIRST OF ALL, YOU GO TO CONFESSION, AND THEN YOU MAY START YOUR NOVENA !

- WHAT'S THAT ? !!  
YES, YOU'RE RIGHT, BROTHER; IT'S TWENTY-FIVE YEARS NOW SINCE I'VE BEEN TO THE SACRAMENTS.

- PLEASE DADDY !  
DON'T SPEAK SO LOUD;  
EVERYBODY CAN HEAR YOU !!

- WELL, IF I'VE BEEN WICKED ENOUGH TO REMAIN AWAY FROM THE SACRAMENTS FOR TWENTY-FIVE YEARS, I'LL AT LEAST HAVE THE COURAGE TO ADMIT MY MISTAKE.

PUT ON YOUR HAT...  
WITH YOUR RIGHT HAND.

THE MAN OBEYED, STUNNED BEYOND WORDS. THE FOLLOWING DAY HE CAME BACK TO THE ORATORY FOR CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION. BROTHER ANDRÉ OFTEN TOLD OF THE HAPPY CONVERSION OF THIS FALLEN-AWAY CATHOLIC.

A NUN ONE DAY ENTERED BROTHER ANDRÉ'S OFFICE AS HE WAS READING FROM "THE FOLLOWING OF CHRIST".

- BROTHER, HOW CAN YOU READ SUCH SMALL TYPE? I'M SURE I COULDN'T. I HARDLY SEE WELL ENOUGH TO FIND MY WAY AROUND THE CONVENT.

HERE, I WANT YOU TO READ THIS!

THE NUN OBEYED, AND WAS LITERALLY AMAZED...

- GOODLORD ! ACTUALLY CAN READ THOSE LINES ! WHY, BROTHER, HOW BRIGHT IT IS IN YOUR OFFICE !

ON A STOP-OVER IN FALL RIVER, MASS., BROTHER ANDRÉ PAID A VISIT TO SAINT JOSEPH'S ORPHANAGE, AN INSTITUTION THAT HAD BEEN OPENED A FEW MONTHS PREVIOUS UNDER THE CARE OF THE GREY NUNS.

-SISTER, YOU ARE DOING WONDERFUL WORK. BUILD ANOTHER WING, FOR THERE ARE SO MANY WAIFS TO BE TAKEN CARE OF.

-WHAT BOTHERS US IS THAT WE ARE IN DEBT AS IS.

- THAT PROBLEM IS SIMPLE ENOUGH TO SOLVE: JUST PLACE A REMINDER BEFORE THE STATUE OF ST. JOSEPH, READING: **PAY OUR DEBTS!**

-WE'VE TAKEN YOUR ADVICE, BROTHER ANDRÉ!

-NO, YOU HAVEN'T! I HAD TOLD YOU TO WRITE: SAINT JOSEPH, PAY OUR DEBTS! YOU'VE CHOSEN HIM AS YOUR PROVIDER, SO WHY DO YOU HESITATE TO REMIND HIM OF THAT?

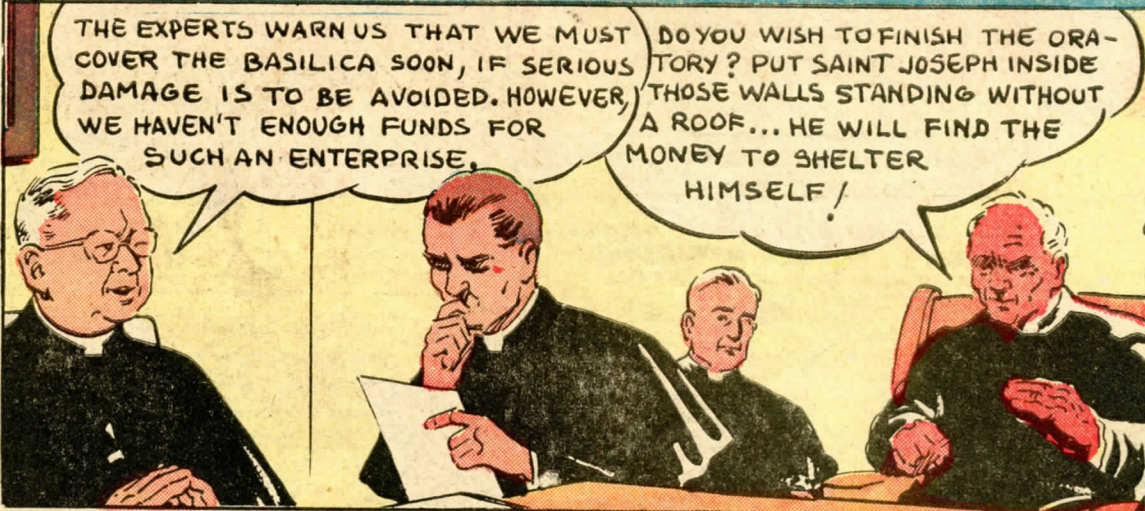
SAINTE JOSEPH  
HELP US PAY  
OUR DEBTS.

BROTHER ANDRÉ, PLEASE COME WITH ME! MY MOTHER-IN-LAW IS ON THE POINT OF DEATH!

-YOU'VE ARRIVED TOO LATE: SHE'S DEAD. THE DOCTOR HAS DRAWN A SHEET OVER HER HEAD.

-I'M HUNGRY!  
-GET ME AN ORANGE. I WANT HER TO EAT IT.

IN THE FALL OF 1935, WHILE ATTENDING A MEETING OF THE ORATORY'S LOCAL COUNCIL, PRESIDED BY FATHER ALBERT COUSINEAU, C.S.C., BROTHER ANDRÉ, CONTRARY TO HIS HABIT, VOICED HIS OPINION:



THE EXPERTS WARN US THAT WE MUST COVER THE BASILICA SOON, IF SERIOUS DAMAGE IS TO BE AVOIDED. HOWEVER, WE HAVEN'T ENOUGH FUNDS FOR SUCH AN ENTERPRISE.

DO YOU WISH TO FINISH THE ORATORY? PUT SAINT JOSEPH INSIDE THOSE WALLS STANDING WITHOUT A ROOF... HE WILL FIND THE MONEY TO SHELTER HIMSELF!

SAINT JOSEPH MOST FAITHFUL!

PRAY FOR US!

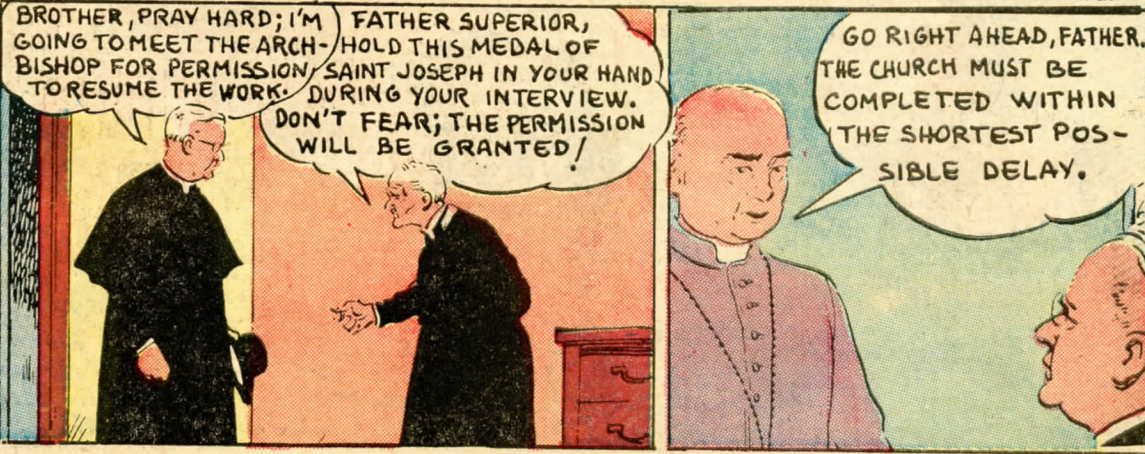
ON THE FIRST WEDNESDAY OF NOVEMBER 1935, THE RELIGIOUS OF THE SHRINE WITH A FEW OF THEIR FRIENDS FORMED A SHORT PROCESSION TO ESCORT THE STATUE OF SAINT JOSEPH UP THE HILLSIDE TO THE BASILICA. BROTHER ANDRÉ TRUDGED ALONG, HELPED BY BROTHER PLACIDE.



BROTHER, PRAY HARD; I'M GOING TO MEET THE ARCH-BISHOP FOR PERMISSION TO RESUME THE WORK.

FATHER SUPERIOR, HOLD THIS MEDAL OF SAINT JOSEPH IN YOUR HAND DURING YOUR INTERVIEW. DON'T FEAR; THE PERMISSION WILL BE GRANTED!

GO RIGHT AHEAD, FATHER. THE CHURCH MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE DELAY.



ON CHRISTMAS EVE, 1936, BROTHER ANDRÉ WAS SEATED BEHIND THE MAIN ALTAR, IN THE SANCTUARY OF THE CRYPT, FOR MID-NIGHT MASS. TO RECEIVE COMMUNION, HE WENT AROUND TO THE FRONT OF THE ALTAR, SOMETHING HE WAS NOT ACCUSTOMED TO DO.

-COME, BROTHER, I'LL HELP YOU TO YOUR ROOM.

OVERTIRED, HE WAS COMPELLED TO LEAVE THE CRYPT BEFORE THE END OF THE THIRD MASS.

THAT EVENING, DURING MEAL....

ANOTHER CHRISTMAS DAY IS PAST!

-THIS PROBABLY WILL BE MY LAST.

-BUT THE ORATORY STILL NEEDS YOU.

-WHEN ONE ACCOMPLISHES SOME GOOD ON EARTH, IT IS NOTHING IN COMPARISON TO WHAT ONE WILL BE ABLE TO DO FROM HEAVEN.

THE NEXT DAY, WHEN RETURNING FROM A SICK CALL WITH A FRIEND...

THE HOSPITAL OF ST. LAURENT! IT'S AN OLD BUILDING, BUT SO WELL KEPT!

-YES, I KNOW. HOW FINE A PLACE THIS WOULD BE FOR SOMEONE TO REST! WHAT A PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH TO PREPARE FOR DEATH.

YET, HE HAD NEVER BEEN HOSPITALIZED THERE.

EARLY IN THE MORNING OF JANUARY 6TH, REV. FATHER ALBERT COUSINEAU, C.S.C., SUPERIOR OF THE ORATORY, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED THE PASSING OF THE GREAT APOSTLE OF SAINT JOSEPH. THE NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE.

EVEN NON-CATHOLIC EDITORS HIGHLY SPOKE IN PRAISE OF THE DECEASED RELIGIOUS.



IN OFFICES, FACTORIES AND HOMES, PEOPLE WERE TELLING ALL ABOUT THEIR PERSONAL MEMORIES OF BROTHER ANDRÉ.

-MY MOTHER MUST BE VERY SAD, SHE WAS CURED BY BROTHER ANDRÉ WHEN ALL THE DOCTORS THOUGHT SHE WAS DONE FOR.

-YOU KNOW MY BROTHER, DON'T YOU? WELL, IF HE CAN WALK TODAY, IT IS THANKS TO BROTHER ANDRÉ.



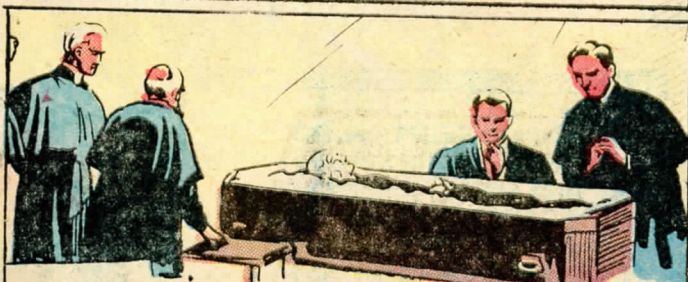
-I NEVER FELT SO NERVOUS WHEN DOING THIS TYPE OF WORK.

THAT'S FINE WORK!



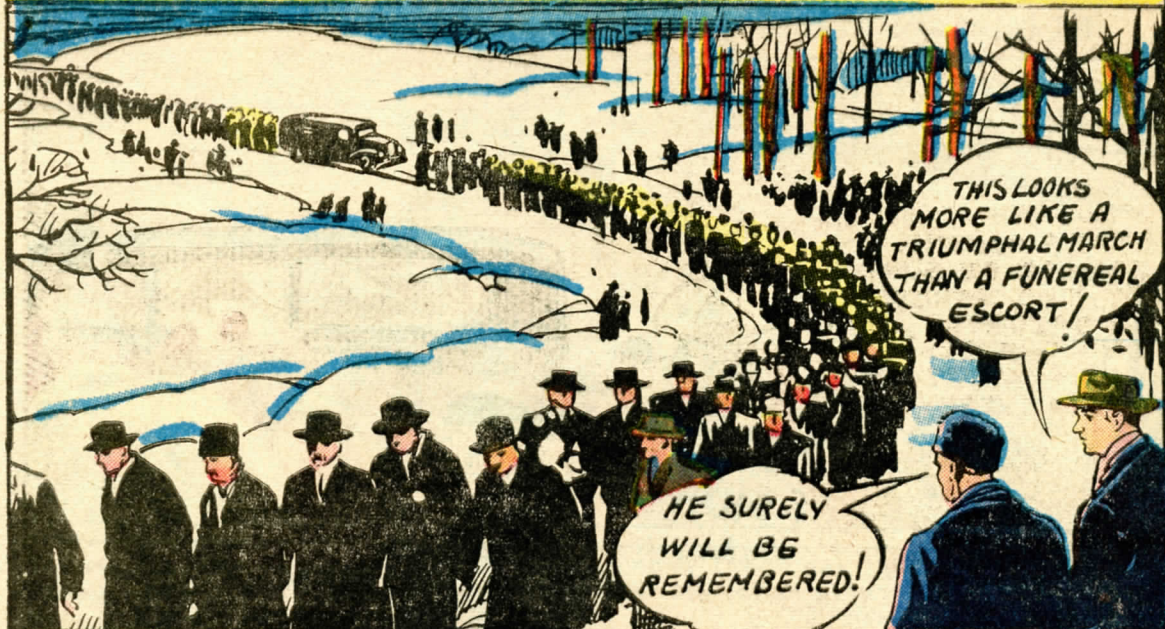
SPECIALISTS WERE CALLED UPON TO MOULD A MORTUARY MASK OF ST. JOSEPH'S LATE APOSTLE.

NEWS AGENCIES WERE BUSY SPREADING THE SCOOP TO THE FAR CORNERS OF THE WORLD.



OUT OF RESPECT, BROTHER ANDRÉ'S BODY WAS NOT EMBALMED. IT WAS LAID OUT IN A HUMBLE COFFIN SIMILAR TO THAT USED FOR ANY OF HIS CONFRÈRES.

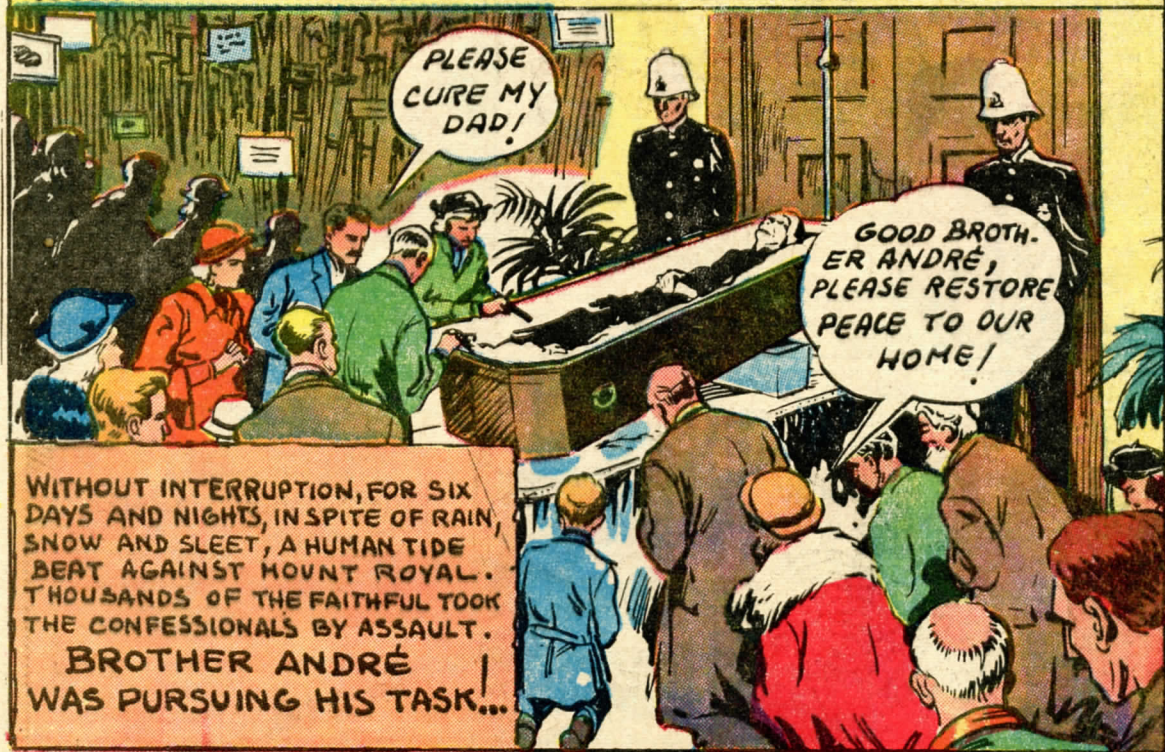
AT TEN O'CLOCK THAT MORNING, THE HOSPITAL WAS INVADED BY HUNDREDS OF GRIEVING VISITORS. FOR EACH AND EVERYONE, IT WAS AS IF A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY HAD JUST PASSED AWAY. AT THREE O'CLOCK THAT SAME AFTERNOON, THE BODY WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE ORATORY.



THIS LOOKS MORE LIKE A TRIUMPHAL MARCH THAN A FUNERAL ESCORT!

HE SURELY WILL BE REMEMBERED!

THE COFFIN WAS SET UP IN THE CRYPT, IN A LATERAL CHAPEL OPPOSITE THE MAIN ENTRANCE, UNDERNEATH THE MAZE OF CRUTCHES AND CANES LEFT AT THE SHRINE BY GRATEFUL PILGRIMS. THE VISITORS CONTINUED TO TOUCH RELIGIOUS ARTICLES TO THE BODY OF THE DECEASED WONDER MAN.



PLEASE CURE MY DAD!

GOOD BROTHER ANDRÉ, PLEASE RESTORE PEACE TO OUR HOME!

WITHOUT INTERRUPTION, FOR SIX DAYS AND NIGHTS, IN SPITE OF RAIN, SNOW AND SLEET, A HUMAN TIDE BEAT AGAINST MOUNT ROYAL. THOUSANDS OF THE FAITHFUL TOOK THE CONFESSIONALS BY ASSAULT. BROTHER ANDRÉ WAS PURSUING HIS TASK...