2017 marked the 100th anniversary of St. Brother André’s first visit to St. Peter’s Parish in October of 1917. Under the leadership of Phil LaPorte, several volunteers organized monthly events and historical displays to acknowledge and commemorate St. André’s presence in the parish. Other members of the committee included: Patty LaPorte, Loretta Ayotte, Charlene Oesch, Nancy Robison-Jardine, Elaine Ducharme, Anthony Hartman, Pauline Cantin and Elaine Coxon.

Families living in the parish in 1917 were honoured in a Family Posters display in the church hall. Descendants of these families who entered into religious life were also given special recognition. Monthly events consisted of “Coffee Sunday” style socials each focusing on a theme related to the life of St. André. Each month between 150 and 200 people attended. Students from St. Boniface School participated by preparing art work for the hall. Music teacher, Christa Ducharme and some of her students entertained parishioners with French Canadian folk songs in November.

The two major events for the year were the Parish Reunion Barbecue in August and the Visit of the Major Reliquary of St. Brother André in October. Over 450 people were present for the reunion and over 250 for the visit of the reliquary. Marc and Pauline Cantin, with the support of Rev. Fr. Patrick Beneteau of the Diocese of London, brought the Major Reliquary to area schools, the Bluewater Rest Home and St. Peter’s parish.

Major additions to the church grounds in 2017 included the creation of the St. André Rosary Garden and a new walkway to the Sacred Heart and The Kneeling St. Brother André statues. A duplicate of the Kneeling St. Brother André statue was donated in 2017 and installed at the back of the Rosary Garden. The statue was restored by Peter and Pat Jeffrey and its base was made by Tony and Phil LaPorte.
“St. André’s Path of Prayer”, a pamphlet of the major features of the church grounds, and a postcard of the St. André Rosary Garden were produced. A booklet, “2017 – A Year with St. Brother André”, highlighting the year’s activities, was also completed.

The “St. André 100 Website” provides continued access to all of the photos and information gathered by the committee. [http://standre100.weebly.com](http://standre100.weebly.com)

**Upcoming Events 2018**

The “St. André 100” Committee will continue to operate to a lesser degree and has organized a few events for 2018. Please save the dates and join us as we celebrate the “saint who walked among us”.

*Rosary Garden Sunday, St. André Healing Mass*

Sunday, May 20th

10:30 Rosary in the Garden
11:00 Mass
Refreshments in the hall

*Parish Reunion Sunday* - August 5th

BBQ Lunch

*Commemoration of St. Brother André’s Visits* and his canonization - October 21st

For the August 5th celebration we are looking for volunteers who would be willing to help with the cooking of hot dogs and hamburgers. Anyone interested in helping with the barbecue duties that day please let Phil LaPorte know you are available. Thanks in advance for lending a hand.