

## Brother Andre's Beatification Being Discussed By Vatican

MONTREAL (CP) — The late Brother Andre, a man whose frail health and lack of formal education prevented him from becoming a priest, may become a saint of the Roman Catholic Church.

The Congregation of Rites Tuesday announced in Vatican City it has started procedures that could lead to the beatification and canonization of the humble little lay brother who died Jan. 6, 1937, at the age of 91.

From the time of his death, Catholics the world over have prayed at his tomb for his canonization. The tomb is located in the crypt of a multi-million-dollar shrine on the slopes of Montreal's Mount Royal, built largely as a result of Brother Andre's devotion to St. Joseph.

It was to St. Joseph, the carpenter of Nazareth, that Brother Andre, for 40 years porter, gardener and students' barber at a Montreal college, asked the poor and the afflicted to pray for help in obtaining divine relief or cures.

### TINY CHAPEL

His first chapel was a crudely-constructed, steep-sloped little building capable of seating approximately 100 people. Overhead he had a poorly furnished room where he met and chatted with those who called to see him.

As his fame spread, the number of visitors increased. They left behind contributions large and small and work started on what has become one of the largest shrines in the world, attracting about 3,000,000 pilgrims annually. The still-uncompleted basilica, its huge dome a city landmark, is capable of holding approximately 12,700 worshippers.

On display in one section of the church are crutches, wheelchairs and steel braces left behind by pilgrims who claimed miraculous cures. People who knew him say the claims were made by the pilgrims and not by Brother Andre who scoffed when referred to as the "miracle man of the mountain."

Among the students whose hair Brother Andre cut while at Notre Dame College here was Premier Duplessis of Quebec. At a 1955 ceremony marking the anniversary of the birth of Brother Andre Mr. Duplessis recalled how he had helped the famed brother with his duties as porter at the college.

### SEEKS HONOR

Turning to Cardinal Leger, Archbishop of Montreal who was among his listeners, Mr. Duplessis said:

"I wish you would ask His Holiness The Pope to beatify Brother Andre. He put up with me for four years and that should be enough to qualify him for beatification."

Brother Andre was born Alfred Bessette Aug. 9, 1845, in St. Gregoire d'Iberville, a village 32 miles southeast of Montreal. He was the sixth of 10 children born to Isaac Bessette and Clotilde Folsy.

An orphan at six, he was adopted by an aunt. Of precarious health, he left school and tried his hand at various trades—shoemaker, baker, farm-hand and blacksmith.

In 1870 he joined the Congregation of Holy Cross and the following year took his first religious vows. He was assigned to Notre Dame College, across the street from the spot he chose for his shrine to St. Joseph.

### SPARE TIME JOB

Unable to become a priest, he accepted whatever tasks were assigned to him and obtained permission to use his spare time to supervise the building of his chapel.

It may, said a spokesman for the Holy Cross order, be two or

nesses who knew him.

The next step likely will be the appointment of an ecclesiastical tribunal that will investigate claims of miracles, open Brother Andre's tomb to examine the remains, and hear the evidence of any witnesses still living. The size of the tribunal may vary but two representatives will act as lawyers on behalf of the brother's cause and two others—sometimes referred to as lawyers for the devil—will present whatever evidence they can against the brother.

When the tribunal reaches a decision it will be sent to the Pope for final judgment. If he authorizes beatification then Catholics will be permitted to render public cult to Brother Andre. The pleading of his tomb under an altar will be permitted and a mass in his name will be added to the Roman Catholic ritual.

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## Takes Four Days For Fast Tour Of Sites At World Fair

By KEN METHERAL, Canadian Press Staff Writer BRUSSELS (CP) — Providing you are an early riser, a fast walker and have an athletic constitution, you can walk around the world in four days.

Officials at the Brussels Universal and International Exhibition estimate that is the time required for a fast walker to visit the sites of about 50 countries participating in the first world fair in 20 years.

itself. 46 countries and eight international organizations have poured the quintessence of their culture and achievement.

### ATOMIUM OUTSTANDING

Dominating the entire fair is the Belgian Atomium, the most remarkable exhibition building since the Eiffel Tower graced the 1900 exhibition in Paris.

A huge arrangement of interconnected spheres representing the split-up components of the atom, the Atomium rises 335 feet in the air. One of the giant spheres appropriately houses a nuclear display and in the top-

most one, reached by a high-speed lift, is a restaurant seating 130.

On opening day Thursday the restaurant is reserved for Belgium's King Baudoin and his guests. For the remainder of the six-month-long exhibition, it will be open to anyone who considers the experience—and a meal—worth £6.

The Canadian pavilion is a squat but airy three-storey structure designed by Ottawa architect Charles Greenberg. Strictly speaking, it is not so much a building as a summer

showpiece and will be demolished when the exhibition ends.

"It's not a pretentious pavilion," says Glen Bannerman, chairman of the Canadian government exhibition commission. "But it's a nice homey place where people can come in and take their shoes off—if they want to—and relax in a Canadian atmosphere."

**GREAT WINDS**  
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