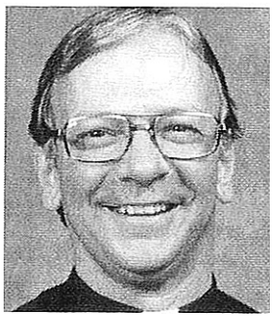
Lourdes Echoes

March-April 2017 Vol. 80 No. 4

A Publication of The Lourdes Center • The Marist Fathers & Brothers

St. Bernadette, Sister of Charity • St. Gildard Convent, Nevers, France • Died Age 35



Fr. Andrew Albert, s.m.

The Director's Corner

What we have been doing at the Lourdes Center since 1951 is basically fulfilling a hope and dream of the late Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston. Archbishop Cushing had a love for sick children. In the late 1940's he organized pilgrimages for sick children to get to Lourdes, and he wanted to make Lourdes water readily available to Catholics in the U.S. and Canada. Not many people were flying to Europe in the late 40's and early 50's.

A young man in his 20's was involved in helping organize these pilgrimages. His name was George Osborn. The Marist Fathers were asked by Archbishop Cushing to accept this Lourdes ministry, namely, pilgrimages to Lourdes and making Lourdes water readily available to Catholics. The Marist Fathers agreed. Among the first to help us in this ministry was George Osborn. So George who died on November 22, 2016 was involved in our ministry from the very beginning. That means for over sixty years!

George, along with the priest director, handled lining up the flights to Lourdes, the stays in the hotels in Lourdes, and the myriad details of any pilgrimage. He was very devoted to the sick and to all pilgrims.

George R. Osborn, Jr.

George enlisted in the Navy in 1942 and served with the Medical Corps as a Navy Corpsman. He served in naval hospitals in Jacksonville, Florida and in Hawaii. It is not surprising that his devotion to the sick continued as he joined the Marist Fathers in the Lourdes ministry which is very focused on the physically and spiritually sick.

George's many years of working with us Marists underscores the fact that from the very beginning of our Society lay men and women have been encouraged to work side by side with us. The first group of Marist priests and brothers left from the port of Le Havre in France for the Pacific Islands on Christmas Eve 1836. They served on a freighter heading for the islands. It took them 11 months to get there! Their "passage" was paid by lay people who were already involved with the new Marist Fathers society in France.

So George is part of a long line of lay Marists working with us Marist priests. I am so thankful for George's many years of service in this Lourdes ministry. On a personal level, he was very helpful to me when as pastor of St. Anne's Parish in Lawrence, MA I organized a pilgrimage to Lourdes and Paris in 1975.

I know that many of our readers know George both as fellow pilgrims or as co-workers with him on pilgrimages. May Our Lady of Lourdes reward him for his wonderful work.

Once again the great feast of Easter is just around the corner. It is the feast that gives meaning to our Christian life. May we always be a people of hope and joy. May we always be welcoming to the stranger. May we always express God's great love for everyone and the forgiveness he offers to everyone. A very happy and glorious Easter to all of you.

God Bless You All!

Fr. Albert

Our email address is:
ourlady@lourdescenter.org
lourdescenter@yahoo.com

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

We are all works in progress

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.

When I was a pastor and had to prepare my weekly bulletin, I always began my very first column in each parish I served in with the words "Be patient with me. God isn't finished with me yet!" I like to think that just as I try to be patient with the people I serve, they will be patient with me. I also like to think that I'm going to live to a ripe old age. That way, I will be able to make progress toward becoming the kind of person I would like to become, by the time I die!

A wise man once said, "The man who has not changed (for the better) in the past 30 years, has wasted 30 years of his life." True, each one of us is born with certain qualities and talents, because God doesn't make junk, but those talents have to be developed, by the grace of God.

A few months ago, God gave us the gift of a new year. Hopefully, we will prove ourselves worthy of becoming recipients of this gift. We will if we resolve to do so by the way we live. I often ask people how they are doing as regards the New Year's Resolutions they took. They often reply by saying, "I don't take New Year's Resolutions, because I'd only break them." With all due respect, that's like saying, "I've stopped eating, because I'd only get hungry again."

Jesus became one of us not only to save us but also to teach us how to live. He still does, by sending His mother down to earth periodically, notably at Lourdes in 1858. People visit Lourdes in great numbers every year, hoping to be cured of their ailments. And many of them are. Those who are not able to go to Lourdes can obtain Lourdes Water from the miraculous spring that the Blessed Mother left us there, in the course of her 18 apparitions to St. Bernadette.

The Blessed Mother reminded all of us, when she intervened in our world, that there's more to life than what we can see, hear, and touch, and that we have an obligation to live good lives. Not long ago, a man I met told me that the 10 Commandments were outdated and needed to be changed! I was shocked! The 10 Commandments are based on human nature which hasn't' changed since Adam and Eve. You can be sure that Our Blessed Mother did not agree with that man.

People who have "Near Death Experiences" are never the same afterwards. They all say that they will never again be afraid to die. Once they experienced how truly loving and welcoming God is, they don't want to return to earth. Who can blame them? When you think about it, we Christians live in two worlds; the material world and the spiritual world. Both are real and have to be taken seriously. We are called to make our material world a better world while we are still a part of it, but we are also called to prepare for the after-life. Those who refuse to do so are in for a big surprise when they leave the present world.

One of my favorite hymns is "O Holy Night." That's the one that reminds us that, as a result of the coming of Christ on our behalf, "the human soul got to know its' worth." Many people still don't realize how precious is the human soul. It's the part of us that is des-

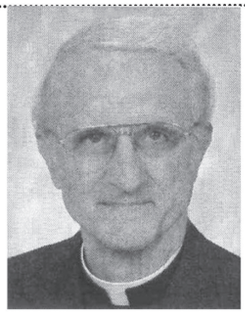
Continued on page 6

By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.

THE FIFTH LUMINOUS MYSTERY

Institution of The Eucharist

Matthew 26, 26-38



This astounding sacrament of divine presence under the appearances of bread and wine that Jesus revealed at the last supper was preached days prior to its institution. Jesus had taught, "…unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you." John 6, 53. Two reactions took place among his followers. First, some turned away and no longer walked with him. They had taken Jesus literally. The Teacher did not correct them for doing so. The stark statement remained fixed in stone. Secondly, to Jesus' question to his apostles, "Do you also want to leave?" Peter's response was, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" John 7, 67-69. The first group failed in faith. The second group with Peter as spokesman stood stout.

The "Ah Ha!" Moment

Soon after this glorious transfor Peter had no clue what Jesus meant by eating the flesh and drinking his blood. But when the moment of the institution of the Eucharist came and Jesus took in hand the bread and said, "This is my body, take and eat;" and this was followed by Jesus taking the chalice of wine saying, "Take and drink, this is my blood." It was then that Peter and his companions had their "Ah Ha!" moment. For it was then that they understood the manner by which they would partake of his body and blood. It was through the medium of what appeared as bread and wine.

Lamb of God: Past

It was the command from God that each household of the Israelites were to slaughter a lamb and smear their doorpost with its blood and eat the roasted lamb in the evening twilight. In this way they would avoid the plague that would bring death to the firstborn males of the Egyptians. The flesh and blood of the sacrificed lamb saved Israelites from slavery and eventual annihilation. This is the story of the lamb past.

The Lamb: Present

This expression comes to us from IrJesus becomes the new Lamb of God. He was designated as such by John the Baptist who, upon seeing Jesus walking by, exclaimed "Behold, the Lamb of God" John 1, 36. Jesus was to give his blood as drink, his flesh as food, spiritual nourishment for those born in Christ by the second birth, the sacrament of Baptism.

A Question You Always Wanted to Ask

A question often thought but not always asked is: Why do I, a weekly communicant, remain much the same and not grow in the Christian life? The short answer is: If you were not receiveing Holy Communion you might be worse off than you are now. The long answer is taken from a comparison of ordinary food and drink. The food taken at home on a regular basis over days, months and years, is achieving its purpose. It is giving and sustaining physical life. This is also true of the Eucharistic food and drink. It is giving and sustaining spiritual life. As eating at home is not a one-time event, neither is eating at church a one-time event. Here is the difference. Each has its own purpose. Ordinary food and drink makes possible life-giving energy for now. The spiritual food and drink of the Lord's Body and Blood makes possible life-giving energy for now and forever!

The food of the Eucharist has a promise attached that is not true of ordinary food:

Continued on page 6

Our Deceased

We have been notified that the following friends of the Lourdes Center have passed away. Please join us in remembering them in your prayers.

CUSHMAN K. PINAO, HI
JOHN PETER SCOTT, CA
JACQUELINE S. RUNNING, AZ
MARY M. MCANDREW, MO
JULIA M. ELDER, KY
RAYMOND J. SIMONELLI, OH
JANE WOOD, CA
ANN K. ELLIOTT, CA
MARY J. JAEGER, WI
MARY DALEY, PA
MARION C. VONNEGUT, VA
GAYLON LARSON, SD
THOMAS POWERS, CO
DOROTHY FRYE, LA
THOMAS DUNN, IL
CLEMENT THEBERGE, MA
FLORENCE THEBERGE, MA
AGNES MARIE KNAVSS
RALPH L. NUXOLL, ID
HELEN THERESA (TRUKOSITZ) NUXOLL, ID
NORINE GRADY, OH
WALTER GAMBILL, IN
CHRISTOPHER RODEU, NC
DENNIS BAILEY, OH
ANNE L. GRAHAM, OH
SYLVIA ALCALA, IN
CATHERINE LESNICK, MI
DIANE VAN DEUSYN, ME
MARY S. ALLEMAN, LA
DENNIS CENAC, MS
GLORIA R. GARCIA, TX
SHIRLEY S. WORK, IL
ERNESTINE & ROGER PECK, CA
VELMA STRANGE, NE
CATHIE HARVEY, MA
H. ZUZIK, OH
SALVATORE MARTELLINI, AZ
LAURA MARTELLINI, AZ
JOHNNY REGALLA, PA
JOHN FITZGERALD, MA
VIRGINIA GREVING, IL
MARY B. FOUNTAIN, GA
PETER CONIGLIO, NJ
REGINA SWEENEY, SD
ROSE MARIE GUNTER, MO
JOYCE BANACHOWSKI, WI
ROSE MARY LUIZZO, MA
EILEEN DRUKEN, MA
SUSAN WEST, AZ
EILEEN MURPHY, IA
NERB & MARGARET LEMEROND, WI
JOSEPH A. O'BRIEN, JR. NC
JANET ROMANOFF, MA
FERNAND MATHIEU, RI
JASON SIPHER, IN
ANN RYAN, NY
SR. ANNA M. MANTERNACH, IA
MRS. ALFRED SZYMBORSKI, PA
LEA NABKEY, MI
JOYCE CATANZARO, NJ
FRANCIS J. CRABTREE, MD
JENNIE MORALES, MA
JOSEPHINE LOPEZ, MN
DOROTHY HUELSMANN, IL
MARGE SHOPEK, MN
FABIAN & THERESA SCHAAF, MN
MARY D'ORLANDO, MA
ELIZABETH CHAMPAGNE, MA
PHYLISS E. BELL, WI
RITA RANSOM, CT
JESUS MORALES, CA
THOMAS WALSH, OH
JOSEPH MORRIS, IL
LARRY MCGINN, AL
ALBERT & MAY SIMON, LA
RAY & JOYCE CATANZARO, NJ
MARY PAT SHEEHAN, AZ

Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Requested by: _____

Suggested offering: $10.00 (perpetual)

Our Lady's Purgatorial Society

Each year your enrolled deceased and loved ones are remembered during the 365 daily Masses celebrated by the Marist Fathers. An attractive certificate framed in a blue folder with a colorful picture of Our Lady is sent to the donor or recipient.

Fr. Lacasse

We are all works in progress

Continued from page 3

tined to live, after our bodies decay in the grave, for all eternity.

Go thank God every day for the gift of faith. We Christians know who we are, why we are here on earth, and what we are destined for after our work here on earth is finished. Unfortunately, many people who go through life do not. They are to be pitied. By the way we ourselves live, we can offer them a better way to live. Someone once said, "Preach every day, and sometimes use words," meaning that personal example is far more effective than lecturing people… something we all need to remember.

Fr. Grispino

Institution of The Eucharist

Continued from page 4

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven;

Whoever eats this bread will live forever;

and the Bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the World." John 6, 51.

Be patient. "…the word of God….is now at work in you who believe." 1 Thess. 2, 13.

Readers Write

D.D. Over the years I have used Lourdes water and prayer with wonderful results. Many of the people to whom I have given bottles have been healed, sometimes in a dramatic way.

An elderly cousin of mine mentioned years ago that she was diagnosed with a brain tumor. I sent her Lourdes water, and soon after, we were told that all was clear and that she was fine. She just turned 101, lives alone, and sent us a Christmas card!

My mother recently had a cellulites problem on her foot, and we were told that she would most likely never heal, due to her age (98,) poor circulation, and diabetic condition. There was the possibility of major amputation. With Lourdes water and prayer, her foot has now healed!

About 12 years ago, my mother was told that she would lose her vision due to macular degeneration and that there was nothing that could be done for her. The eye doctor showed me pictures he had taken in her eyes, which showed hemorrhaging deep inside.

I used an antiseptic eyedropper with Lourdes water and prayer each night on my mother until her next visit. The doctor took more pictures and was shocked. He called me in to see them and said her eyes were clear, no bleeding in the back of them. He asked, "How could that be?" I answered, "Lourdes water." He said, "Whatever you're doing, keep doing it!" Just this week, I visited the bedside of a friend's father who was near the end of his life. He was under hospice care, receiving morphine, but was in agonizing pain, thrashing and calling out, which made it so difficult for the family. I cooled his head with Lourdes water and sprinkled some on his gangrenous wound. His daughter told me they reapplied the water several times, and that he remained tranquil until the end came, about 1 ½ days later. Sorry, this was going to be a short message, but I could relate many instances that have happened, thanks be to God!

Thank you so much for your service to us. God bless all of you and your efforts! **NY.**

A.M. I am enclosing a check for $35 for ten bottles of Lourdes Water. I have shared some with someone who is ill.

I ask you to pray for me for I have a sore ankle and I am on an antibiotic plus and antibiotic cream which has increased my anxiety.

I am also going to order the booklet "Lourdes and Our Lady." I was sorry to read that Lourdes was flooded and I pray that they have time to clean it up.. **NY**

R.A. I truly believe that Lourdes Water brings physical, emotional, and spiritual healing. God bless you. **FL**

From a Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes

Mary, you showed yourself to Bernadette
in the crevice of the rock.
In the cold and grey of winter,
you brought the warmth, light and beauty
of your presence,

In the often obscure depths of our lives,
in the depth of the world where evil is so
powerful,
bring hope,
return our confidence!

You are the Immaculate Conception,
come to our aid, sinners that we are.
Give us the humility to have a change of
heart,
the courage to do penance.
Teach us to pray for all people.

Guide us to the source of true life.
Make us pilgrims going forward with your
Church,
whet our appetite for the Eucharist,
the bread for the journey, the bread of life.

Gift Center

The following gift items are available for order from the Marist Lourdes Center in Boston.

Order from The Lourdes Center

2017 CALENDAR.....$5.00
Limited Supply ... Order Now!

Our Lady of Lourdes Medal in Grotto.....$5.00

Brown Scapular.....$2.00

Green Scapular.....$2.00

St. Bernadette pins.....$3.50

Our Lady of Lourdes pins.....$3.50

Booklet: "Lourdes and Our Lady"
by Fr. John Lynch, S.M.....$4.00

Please send your order with payment to: Lourdes Bureau Gift Center, P.O. Box 15575, 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594.

Do you know someone who would like to receive Echoes from Lourdes?
Give them a **FREE SUBSCRIPTION!**

Send their names and addresses.
Use a separate sheet if necessary.

E-mail the information to: ourlady@lourdescenter.org
MAIL it to:
Lourdes Center
P.O. Box 15575
698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

Affiliations

Remembrance in 50 Masses yearly and at our weekly Perpetual Novena

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Requested by: _____

Phone No: _____

Offering: 1 year $2.00,
3 years $5.00 Lifetime $10.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State Zip

Lourdes Water ...

...is an expression of my faith... my trust in God's mercy.

Offering to cover shipping & handling $_____

N.B. A donation of $3.00 per bottle is suggested to cover our expenses. When the offering permits, we use Priority Mail. We will accept orders of 1-3-5-6-and 10 bottles. For multiples thereof and for unusual numbers requested, we reserve the right to send what is both just and feasible.

Please send _____ bottles of the water from the Shrine at Lourdes

Name _____
(Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

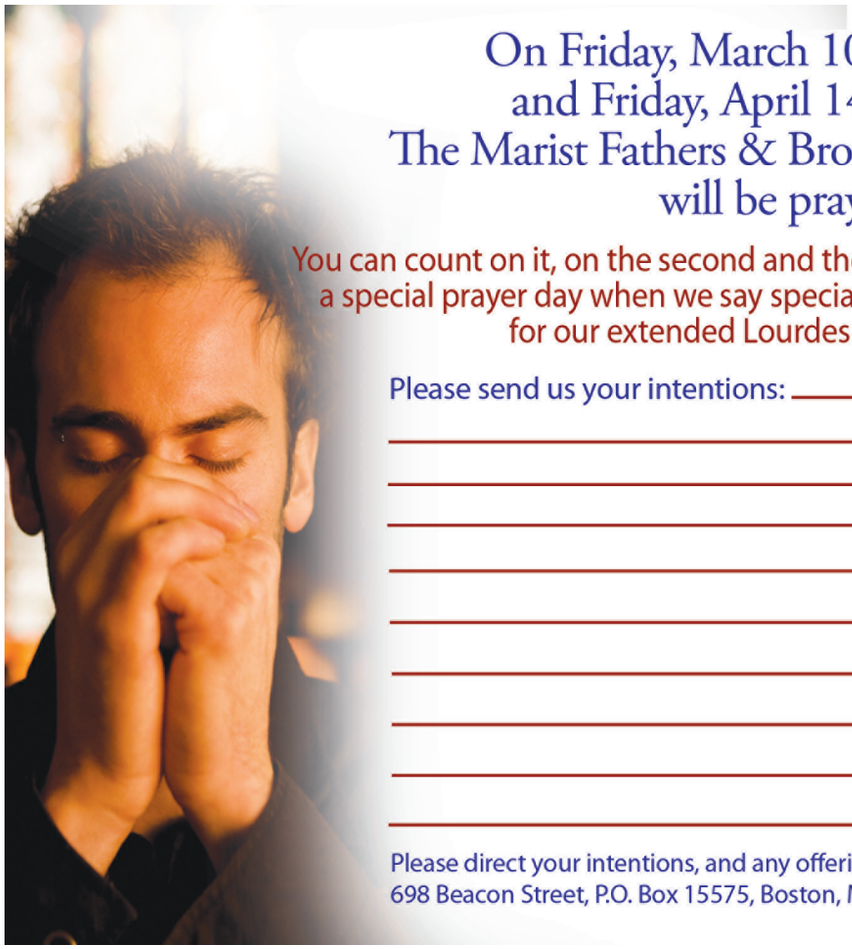
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Does this person receive Lourdes Echoes?
__ Yes __ No

If not, should we send Lourdes Echoes to them?
__ Yes __ No

PLEASE ALLOW 3-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



On Friday, March 10 & Friday, March 24, and Friday, April 14 & Friday, April 28, The Marist Fathers & Brothers of the Lourdes Center will be praying for you.

You can count on it, on the second and the fourth Friday of every month, we hold a special prayer day when we say special prayers and offer Mass at our chapel for our extended Lourdes family ... including you.

Please send us your intentions: _____

_____

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Please direct your intentions, and any offering you'd like to send, to: Marist Fathers, 698 Beacon Street, P.O. Box 15575, Boston, MA 02215-0010 • 617-536-2761.

Address Service Requested

Lourdes Center
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