

Lourdes Echoes

January-February, 2014

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A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER • THE MARIST FATHERS & BROTHERS

St. Bernadette's dying words

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

St. Bernadette suffered a great deal before she died, according to Rene Laurentin, her biographer. I would never

have thought that one must suffer so much to die," he quotes her as saying.

As I grow older, I find myself praying, "Lord, help me to grow old gracefully, and when the time comes for me to leave this world, to die with dignity." I don't want to be a grumpy old man, and I want to die as a Christian, ready and willing to meet my God, who has always been #1 in my life. Also, being a Marist, the Blessed Mother has inspired me, even as a young boy, to seek to emulate her virtues. Growing up, I had a place in my bedroom where I erected a shrine where a statue of Mary was prominently displayed. That statue of Mary has followed me to this

Marist Guidance



day, wherever I have been called to serve as a Marist priest, reminding me of the importance of the Blessed Mother throughout my life. When I

die, I pray that she will welcome me in her arms and lead me to her Son in Heaven.

We Christians go through life constantly aware of the life that awaits us after our brief life here on earth is over. The early Christians who died as martyrs for their faith in the amphitheatres of the Roman Empire would sometimes do so while singing a hymn, knowing that they would be welcomed into Heaven by Jesus Himself, accompanied by His mother. Even today that same welcome awaits each one of us, providing we persevere in our faith in Jesus and devotion to Mary.

St. Bernadette lived, fully aware of all this. Hers was not a life of doing only the minimum, of doing only what she needed to do to escape hell. Young as she was when she died (35), she came to believe, like the Apostles, that life was not worth living without God. Death held no terrors for her.

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REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas with friends and loved ones. As we begin a new year, may it be a faith-filled and blessed one for you.

My sincere thanks to all of you who sent donations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Lourdes Center. We received \$13,298.00. And thanks to all of you who keep us and our ministry in prayer. The focus of the Center is prayer for you, for the sick, and spreading the wonderful message of Our Lady given to St. Bernadette at Lourdes in 1858.

Some of you have already responded to my request for names of people who might want to receive "The Lourdes Echoes." I need your help to spread the good news. I am always amazed at how many Catholics have never heard of the Lourdes apparitions. In the Echoes we will include a coupon on which you can print names and addresses and send them to us with your Lourdes water orders. You can also refer people to our website www.lourdescenter.org. The website has a lot of information for anyone looking to know more about Lourdes.

I am very happy to tell you that one of our Marist priests Father George Szal will be leading the pilgrims leaving from Boston for the 2014 pilgrimage to Lourdes. The dates are June 29 to July 8, 2014. See the full page copy of the flyer in this issue of the Echoes. Again we are joining the Lourdes pilgrimage office of Catholic Travel in Rockville, Maryland. Sign up early. Last month's pilgrimage was sold out 3 months before departure.

I constantly get letters telling me how much pilgrims enjoyed their pilgrimage to Lourdes. At least six million people visit the Lourdes shrine every year. Six million! They come from all over the world. When I went I was struck by the obvious and fervent faith of the pilgrims. And to see all of these sick people being helped by their friends to get to the underground basilica of St. Pius X or the above ground basilica of the Holy Rosary is truly seeing the love of God and neighbor in action. It reminds me of the gospel where friends brought their sick friend through the roof so that he could be cured by Jesus. That's prayer in action. You can truly feel the presence of Mary at Lourdes. She brings pilgrims to her son Jesus present in the Blessed Sacrament. Every day there is a special blessing of the sick with Jesus present in the monstrance.

Mary made Lourdes what it is. She asked Bernadette to ask the pastor to have a chapel built for people to come to pray. The result is a sacred area with two major basilicas where Mass is celebrated all day long. Also, Masses are said all day long at the grotto itself. I had the privilege to celebrate Mass at the grotto with our pilgrims. I am sure Fr. George Szal will be able to do the same during this coming pilgrimage of June 29 to July 8.

God bless you all!

— Fr. Albert



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

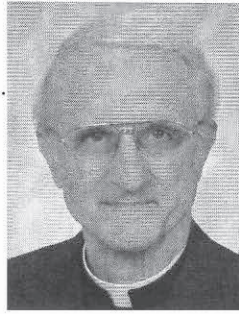
Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

By Fr. Frank Grispingo, S.M.

THE THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY

The Nativity

LUKE 2, 1-1



There was no room for Mary and Joseph in the inn. No room for the Creator of the world and all that is to be found therein! This exclusion of the Lord of lords and King of kings from a place of comfort for his mother to give him birth was merely a snub compared to the cold reception the Pharisees, Elders and the general population were to give the adult Jesus during his public ministry. The sad words of John echo the sadness in our own hearts, "He came unto his own and his own received him not" *John 2,7*.

This exclusion of Jesus happened not only in the past but occurs even today. Ask yourself where is Jesus found today? For the Catholic the answer should be: in the Eucharist. Now would you be embarrassed if asked how many family members can you name who avoid going to Mass and receiving Our Lord and Savior in Holy Communion? If you made a list of names then what would you have? A prayer list!

The Eucharist is foreshadowed in the nativity scene. The Christ Child was laid in a manger a receptacle for food. The town where Jesus was born was well known for its abundant harvest of wheat. Hence the name Bethlehem meaning "House

of Bread." Jesus came to be bread for the life of the world.

The eagerness of Jesus to give of himself under the appearance of bread as a source of spiritual nourishment for the world was suggested at the very hour of his birth. How well do these words apply to Jesus at the very beginning of his coming among us, "My delight is to be with the children of men." *Proverbs 8, 31*. He is to be found present among us in the tabernacles of Catholic churches throughout the world. And his stay is permanent "Behold I am with you always, until the end of the age." *Matthew 28,20*.

Often in our religious enthusiasm we desire to reverse negative situations such as the cold indifference Jesus experienced during the days of his public ministry. But we feel helpless to bring about such change. That need not be so. You have your prayer list of family members who demonstrate indifference toward Jesus by neglecting Mass and not receiving Holy Communion. A present negative situation can be reversed. What you need to do with your prayer list is evident.

Angels at that first Christmas praised God singing, "Glory to God

in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." *Luke 2,14*. Be a missionary in the privacy of your own home. Pray for members of your family estranged from Jesus in the Eucharist that God's favor may rest on them once again.

It was St. Francis of Assisi who had the bright idea that if people were unable to make a pilgrimage to the Holy Land he would bring the Holy Land to them. This was the origin of the Christmas crib as we have it today: the baby Jesus in the manger surrounded by Mary, Joseph and the animals. This tableau is a wonderful visual aid for the instruction of the children. In fact, you may have noticed parents and grandparents bringing the children to church during Christmas Season pointing out to them the statues of the holy family. The baptismal faith of the children begins to be nourished in this way.

Reverse the sadness of the verse, "He came unto his own and his own received him not." *John 2, 7*. Do your part to change it to "He came unto his own and his own received him."



60TH ANNIVERSARY PILGRIMAGE U.S. NATIONAL ROSARY

Lourdes France

June 29 – July 08, 2014

(Also Visiting St. Jean de Luz and Gavarnie)

WELCOMING INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, PARISH
GROUPS, YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS



Fr. George Szal, s.m.
Pastor
Immaculate Conception
Revere, Mass

Accompanied by Clergy Medical Staff & Volunteers to assist the needs of the Pilgrims.

ALL-INCLUSIVE!!

International air transportation including airline fuel surcharges • first class hotels • All meals:
• breakfast, lunch and dinner • Guided tour of Lourdes • Guided visit to Gavarnie • Transfers
and baggage handling • Tips for hotel dining and guides • Sanctuary registration fee •
Scheduled liturgical services • Accompanied by medical & lay staff

BOSTON DEPARTURE - \$2843.00 (plus departure tax 186.00)
SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT: \$375.00

TO MAKE A RESERVATION: KINDLY SEND YOUR DEPOSIT IN THE SUM OF \$400.00 PER PERSON

MAIL TO: LOURDES PILGRIMAGE OFFICE OF CATHOLIC TRAVEL
5505 GRANBY ROAD • ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND 20855
TEL. (301) 740-9332 • FAX. (301) 740-1509 • Toll Free: 1877 276-7279
EMAIL: lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net • WEBSITE: www.lourdes-pilgrimage.com

TO INSURE A PLACE ON THIS PILGRIMAGE PLEASE BOOK EARLY!!!
OUR 2013 PILGRIMAGE WAS SOLD OUT 3 MONTHS BEFORE DEPARTURE

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: CATHOLIC TRAVEL OFFICE

WE HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THIS WONDERFUL MILESTONE!

You may also contact the Lourdes Center, Boston for more information

Readers Write

D.C. My son has been diagnosed with Type 2 Diabetes. He has been fairly heavy since the time he stopped engaging in sports during his mid-20s. We have had many worries about this boy, including the fact that he developed Sleep Apnea and refused to use the CPAP machine that was given to him because of his claustrophobia. We finally found the opportunity to discuss Our Lady with him and her intervention through the Lourdes Water. Please send three bottles and also

please pray that he will use it. **NY**

A.A. I want to thank Our Lady for her help in my life. I have had some bouts with anxiety and realized that I am capable of having occasional panic attacks. This never happened to me when I was younger. I have ordered the Lourdes Water and have a devotion to Our Lady and believe she has helped me in many ways without my even knowing it. I don't miss the bouts of anxiety and am grateful for the help.. **NJ**

Do you know someone who would like to receive Echoes from Lourdes?

Spread the Good News of Lourdes!

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

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration Mass



Marist Provincial, Fr. Ted Keating, delivering the Homily at the Lourdes Center's 50th Celebration Mass.



Main Celebrants at the Lourdes Center's 50th Anniversary Celebration Mass : Fr. Albert, Bishop Hennessey and Fr. Ted Keating"

St. Bernadette's dying words

Continued from page 1

She suffered terribly before she died, but she did so conscious of the suffering of Jesus on the cross for all of us.

The Saints taught us how to live, but they also taught us how to die. St. Paul, after he was converted, changed his life around. He regarded this life as worthwhile only in so far as it contributed to spreading the Kingdom of God here on earth. St. Bernadette could identify with that approach to life and death. She would not have felt

comfortable with people who lived for this life only. Once she had tasted a little bit of Heaven when the Blessed Mother appeared to her at Lourdes, life here on earth held no attraction to her.

I ask myself, "What would it take to convert the world?" Do we need more people like Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Father Damien of Molokai, St. Theresa of Lisieux? Do we need more miracles and apparitions? Do we need to experience the need for

God like we did in World War II where the churches were full of people who were fearful of what lay ahead? May St. Bernadette help us to develop an awareness of God in our lives, of our need for God to be happy, even though we cannot see Him with our eyes. He's always there, whether we realize it or not.

Gift Center

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

Order from

The Lourdes Center

2014 CALENDAR.....\$4.00

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

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

Booklet: "Joseph the Carpenter" by Fr. G. Caron, S.M.....\$3.00

Booklet: "Come, We Could Be Children Together,"
by Fr. G. Caron, S.M.....\$3.00



Lourdes Center Chapel, Boston

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

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.

Readers Write

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 prayed that they had time to clean it up. **NY**

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

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.

DOROTHY ZALESKY, MN
KATHLEEN HORAN, NY
FELIX KACZOROWSKI, OH
LORETTO HUMBERT, OH
LUCILLE NARRELL, NM
MAE BASCLE, LA
THERESA FERRIS LYON, NY
ANDREW GADOSIK, OH
STELLA HEISTER, DC
JOSEPH HYMEL, LA
MARJORIE HANKINS, CA
DEBBIE CAMPBELL, NJ
JOYCE FOREST, CANADA
SUZANNE PAUL
FLO HALASZYNSKI, PA
MARGARET CENAC, LA
JOAN BOWMAN, IL
FLORENCE TOMEDOLSKY, PA
MARY MAGUIRE, MA
PATRICIA A. BROWN, NY
THERESE CONNERS, MA
DILYS JACKSON LEMBI, CA
PAUL J. SHVDA, DE
O.B. SR. MARY BLANCHE, OR
MAGDALENE SWEENEY
RITA GUMBUS, MI
CECILE O'BRIEN, RI
DORA VIATOR, LA
THERESA LYON, NY
BRENDAN DOHERTY, MA
CECILIA BACHE, FL
BILL BIDLEMAN, CA

M. HUTCHINS, MN
PAUL BALTHAZAR, WA
ELIZABETH RYAN, MO
EDNA GARRISON, VA
ROSE MCLEAN, LA
CECILIA BACHE, FL
OMER AND EDNA LAPORTE
JANE C. COCHRAN, AL
MABLE GUIDRY, LA
JAMES MOYA, CA
RITA MAE CARR, FL
KATHLEEN MCCAM-NORTON, VA
MABLE GUIDRY, LA
RUBY F. PITRE, LA
JOHN L. BOVE, VT
JOHNIE SANDOVAL, CO
BARBARA WATTS, IN
RON CROWFOOT, CO
HELEN B. HAILE, NY
JOHN POLLACK, CA
ELEANOR PFAFF, NJ
TERAKWITHA RHODES, WY
NORRIS TABOR, LA
THEODORE GUVELIS, MA
MAUREEN BONFIELD, IN
ANNE ALBERT, ME
JENNIE COBELLE, LA
MARY TABB
CONRAD DVLAC, WY
CAROLINE NOCERA
MARY LOU FITZGERALD, KS
WILLIAM POWELL, AZ

Affiliations for Living

**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 _____

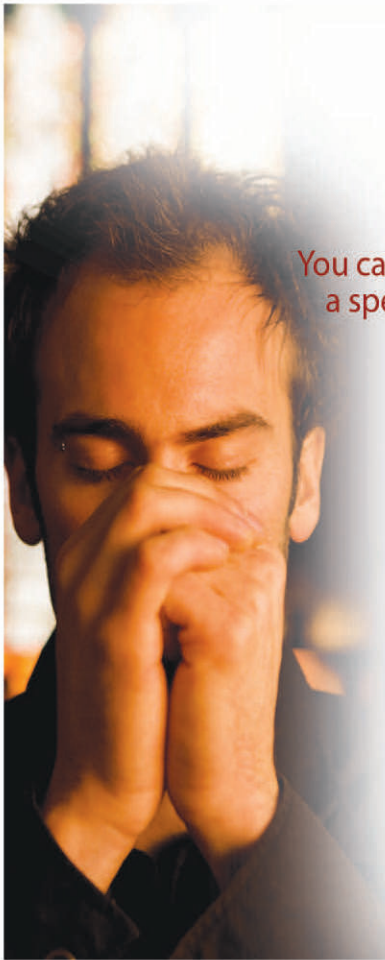
City _____

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, January 10 & Friday, January 24
and Friday, February 14 & Friday, February 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: _____

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.

Director: Rev. Andrew Albert, S.M.
Asst. Director: Rev. Roland Lacasse, S.M.
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Lourdes Echoes



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