

Lourdes Echoes



March-April, 2014

Vol. 76 No. 2

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

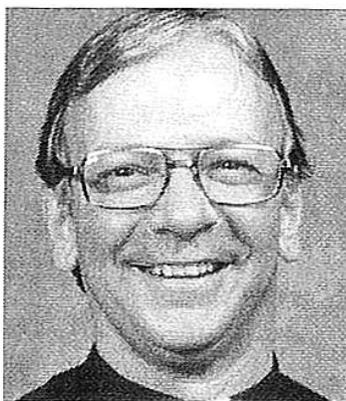
60th Anniversary Pilgrimage
U.S. NATIONAL ROSARY

LOURDES, FRANCE
June 29-July 8, 2014



For information call the Pilgrimage Travel Office at 1-877-276-7279
or the Lourdes Center at 617-536-2761
Registration Deadline: March 15

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

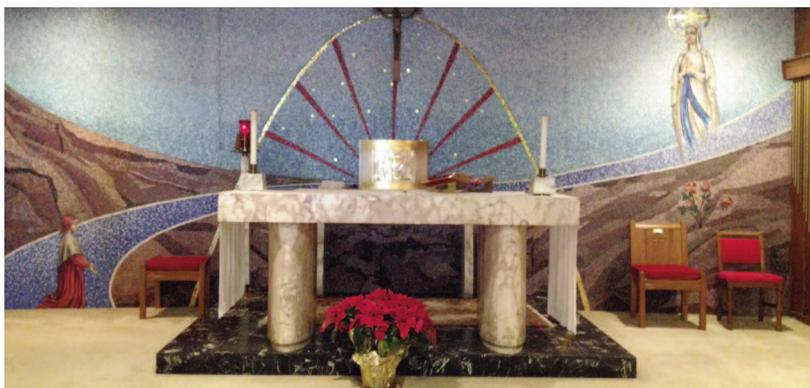
February 11th is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes. We remembered all of you, our readers and supporters, on that very special day which reminds us every year of the “Lady” who appeared to a little girl by the name of Bernadette in the small town of Lourdes France in 1858.

That apparition was the first of thirteen. Only Bernadette saw the “Lady” who finally identified herself as the Immaculate Conception. It is the pastor who asked Bernadette to ask the Lady what her name was. That was the beginning of what became a spiritual powerhouse and remarkable place of healing – physical and spiritual.

Many of you answered my request for the names of people who we could send the Echoes of Lourdes to and thus spread the good news of Lourdes. Thank you so much. I need your help to spread the message of Lourdes. Keep up the good work! It doesn't take long. It costs nothing. Yet it could make a big difference in someone's life. Use the coupon in the Echoes to send us the names. You are thereby doing what Bernadette was asked to do.

Sincerest thanks to all of you who sent Christmas donations. We received \$13,378.00. Your financial support and spiritual support is most appreciated. Without you we could not continue

The Lourdes Center Chapel, Boston, MA



this ministry. With your support we Marists have been able to do it for 63 years. Fifty of those years here in Kenmore Square at 698 Beacon Street, Boston.

Occasionally we get donations from readers who want their donations to be earmarked to help someone get to Lourdes. There is a blind man from Lynn, Massachusetts who wants to join the 2014 pilgrimage group leaving from Boston but he needs help in getting sufficient funds. If any of you would like to help this blind man get to Lourdes, send us your donation marked for the blind man. Thank you.

We have a beautiful Our Lady of Lourdes chapel. The wall behind the altar is a multi-colored mosaic depicting our Lady of Lourdes in the grotto with Bernadette going towards her. If you want Masses said in our chapel for your deceased relatives, for the healing of a relative or friend, or in Thanksgiving to God for the many blessings you have received just write us with your request. The offering is \$10.00 for a Mass said in our chapel.

We are now in the midst of Lent. A time to see whether we have grown as a Christian. Am I more conscious of the needs of others? Do I pray more

frequently for others? Am I more thankful to God for the many gifts I have received in my life? Am I more aware of Mary's love for me? Do I spread devotion to Mary? Do I talk more about the message of Lourdes and the message of Mary to friends and acquaintances?

Lent prepares us for Easter. The first and greatest Christian feast day. The day our Lord Jesus rose from the dead, conquered sin, and opened the gates of heaven to us. Mary always leads us to her son Jesus. Mary at Lourdes demonstrated how much she loves us. Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with you! Pray for us now and at the hour of our death!

Have a wonderful and Blessed Easter!

Fr. Albert



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

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

Priorities in the life of Saint Bernadette

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

Saint Bernadette used to take notes in a book she kept on hand, recording insights she

collected on the spiritual life. One of those insights was “Ask God for holiness rather than for health.”

The world tries to convince us that comfort is everything, and that when you have your health you have everything. The Saints begged to differ. As they grew to appreciate all that Jesus suffered for us on the cross, they came to realize that love without suffering does not exist. After all, it was through suffering that Jesus brought about our Redemption. That is why, in the Christian way of dealing with personal suffering, suffering is not to be regarded as useless. United to the suffering of Jesus on the cross,

our suffering can and should be offered up to our Heavenly Father in reparation for our own sins and for the sins of the world. St. Bernadette suffered a lot in her brief life on earth, but her attitude toward suffering was not that of a lot of people. When one of the nuns in her convent said to St. Bernadette, “You are suffering so much. I’m going to ask God to send you some consolation,” St. Bernadette replied, “No, not consolation, but courage and patience.”

I’m sure that St. Bernadette grew spiritually as she grew older. In other words, she wasn’t born with a halo! Neither were we. The Bible tells us that, humanly speaking, even Christ in His youth grew in grace and wisdom. Spiritual growth takes time. Hopefully, by the time we reach old age, we will have grown spiritually much more than we did when we were young. When I was a pastor, I always included a “Thought for the Week”

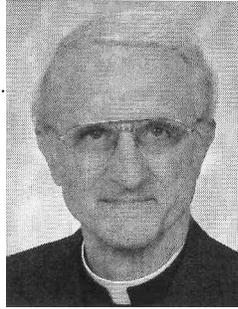
in the parish bulletin, and one of them was “Be patient with me. God isn’t finished with me yet.” I like to think that every Catholic would feel that they could identify with that saying.

One of the reasons we are encouraged to read and meditate on the lives of the Saints is that, little by little, we will begin to share their priorities. Everyone has priorities, but our priorities are not always those of the Saints, the real heroes that we should constantly strive to emulate. The world tries to convince us that celebrities are heroes worthy of our admiration and imitation. Not so. Parents can do a great deal to explain to their children the difference between “celebrities” and “heroes.” The Saints are “God’s heroes” and are not to be taken lightly.

Unfortunately, we live in an age that is becoming more and more secular. There are too many people

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By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.



THE FOURTH JOYFUL MYSTERY

The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple

LUKE 2, 22-38

All parents believe in the potential greatness of their children. The annunciation story gave Mary greater grounds to see the profound greatness in her child. After all he was not only son of Mary but Son of God. It was according to ancient custom that the first male child had to be dedicated to God. Mary is convinced that this ruling applied to Jesus as well. She had conceived him through the power of the Holy Spirit. His true Father is none other than God Himself. Hence the presentation and dedication of the Child.

Responsible Motherhood

Many mothers are in awe in giving life. They see their child not only as their creation but as gift of the Creator of all life. Mothers today see the child's future in terms

of what the world offers: a successful business man, a wealthy entrepreneur, author, inventor, surgeon, a rock star! Should Christian mothers be any different? Mary in this story of the Presentation gives her answer: Mothers are called to dedicate their children to God and direct them to their rightful destiny. Mary shows responsibility in returning her Child to his Father. Christian mothers should do no less especially by praying for the spiritual welfare of their children. Fostering a religious atmosphere in the home can be helpful too. Is there a cross on the wall? A crucifix? A statue of Mary? Rosary on the night stand?

What about the parish calendar? Good advice is appropriate but good example is much needed.

A Second Annunciation

There is another lesson that can be gleaned from the Presentation. It centers around Simeon.

He was Inspired by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. Coming

upon the Holy Family in the temple he takes the child in his arms and praises God that the Messiah—King has arrived. He then reveals to Mary what Pope John Paul II called, “The Second Annunciation”. This is expressed in these words addressed to Mary, “...and you yourself a sword shall pierce”
Luke 2, 35.

When was her heart pierced? At the foot of the cross. Is this a jarring note to this joyful mystery?

Not for the believer whose companion is the Lord. For his divine presence gives assurance of a happy outcome.

A Lesson In Hope

There was another person in the temple who took interest in the Christ Child held in the arms of our Blessed Mother: Anna, a prophetess, and a widow of eighty-four years. She was constantly in the temple praying for the coming of the Messiah-King who would free the people from oppression. She was a woman who never “let up” on praying nor

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Fr. LaCasse

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today who live as if they don't need God to be happy. The young are especially tempted to fall into that temptation, with their health and lack of life's sadness. But eventually they too will face hardship and failing health, and they will reach out to God for help, the God who was always there, but all too often unacknowledged.

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

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.

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

Our Lady of Lourdes
or 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

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



Lourdes Center Chapel, Boston

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

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.

MATTHEW GRITTI, OH
MARGUERITE GROSS, CA
ROGER LEHMANN, WI
BETTY MCCOURT, NJ
DOLORES GREEN, NC
NANCY CARNEY
ELIZABETH CAMPBELL, CANADA
MARY SACKAL, CA
SOLEDAD DEL MUNDO
ANDREW DONNELLAN, NY
JUAN M. CHAVEZ, NM
ALINE DASTAGUE, LA
W.J. WALLACE
BETTY DUPPS, OH
IMMACULATE PALERMO, MA
ANN BASS PREZIOSI
KATHLEEN MCCANN NORTON, VA
GERALDINE HOFFMAN, PA
VICTORIA FILLIP, MI
EDITH BRYANT, IA
LUCILE M. WESTON, ME
EDNA KINSEY, CO
MARIE DYBICZ LEWANDOWSKI, PA
DORANCE BAKEY
ROY CORASS, LA
MARTHA HENSLEY, KY
BERTHA LOUD, MA

SR. WILMA ESCHER, MN
SR. G. RIEDNER, MN
EDITH BRYANT, IA
STELLA NYCH, WI
JOHN L. HERMAN, IL
MARIE SCHWEITERS, MN
EDITH HARBERS, TX
DOROTHY TALERICO, PA
ANN MARIE CARRINGTON
JOSEPHINE BEUCHAT, CA
JAMES C. MOYA, CA
IRENE DARMOFAL
EMMANUEL J. MOSES
DONALD PIKE, WA
EMMA FRANSHO, NV
LUCILLE ANDERT, MN
BERTHA LOUD, MA
RUSSELL CLASS, KY
HELEN REIMAN, MI
JAMES GAGNON, NH
JOHN HOVNIANIAN, MA
GERTRUDE O'CONNOR, MA
JOHN. J. WELCH, NY
MACK LARKIN, TX
GENORE MECHE, LA
ELLEN B. BRENNAN, NY
MARGUERITE TRAINOR, MA

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.**

Fr. Grispino

Continued from page 4

allowed herself to be discouraged as she awaited the fulfillment of the ancient prophecies. What an inspiration for all of us!

Never to lose hope, to be vigilant in prayer, and good works. Seeing Mary in the temple with Christ Child and St. Joseph was the reward for her fidelity. We too need to be prayerful, vigilant, ever

hopeful, and never to be discouraged. It is in having such a disposition that invites surprises and unexpected blessings from the Holy Family.

Quiet Time, Preparation Time

The Presentation is brought to its conclusion with the Holy Family returning to Nazareth.

There, in the village, Jesus will live the hidden life for thirty long

years. Only after such time will he take up his ministry of preaching and healing. Apparently Jesus' public ministry needed time to prepare: quiet time, silence, and reflection. This was Jesus' way of preparing what his Heavenly Father had in store for him.

We too, need to realize the importance of some silence and reflection needed to prepare for the difficulties and problems that our Father will deem fit to send us as we make our pilgrimway through this world on to the next.

The Serenity Prayer

In conclusion this prayer comes to mind: God grant me the serenity to accept the things that cannot be changed; courage to change that which can be changed; and the wisdom to know the difference.

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.

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 _____

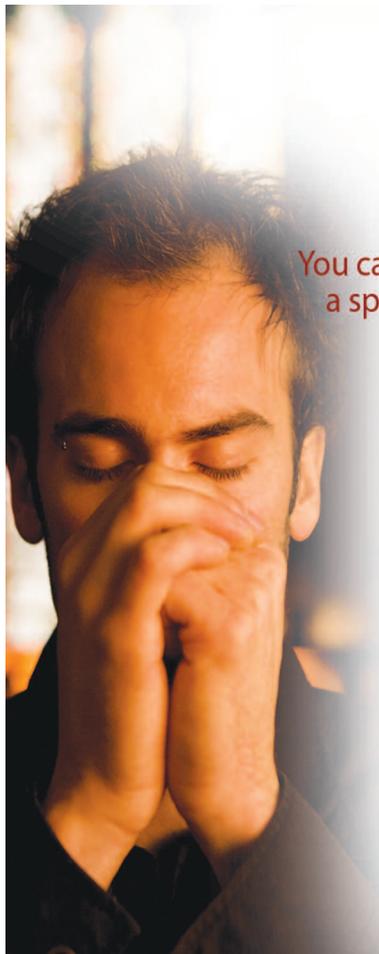
City _____

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 14 & Friday, March 28
and Friday, April 11 & Friday, April 25,
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.

*Address Service
Requested*

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Marist Fathers
Lourdes Bureau
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www.lourdescenter.org
Ourlady@LourdesCenter.org



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