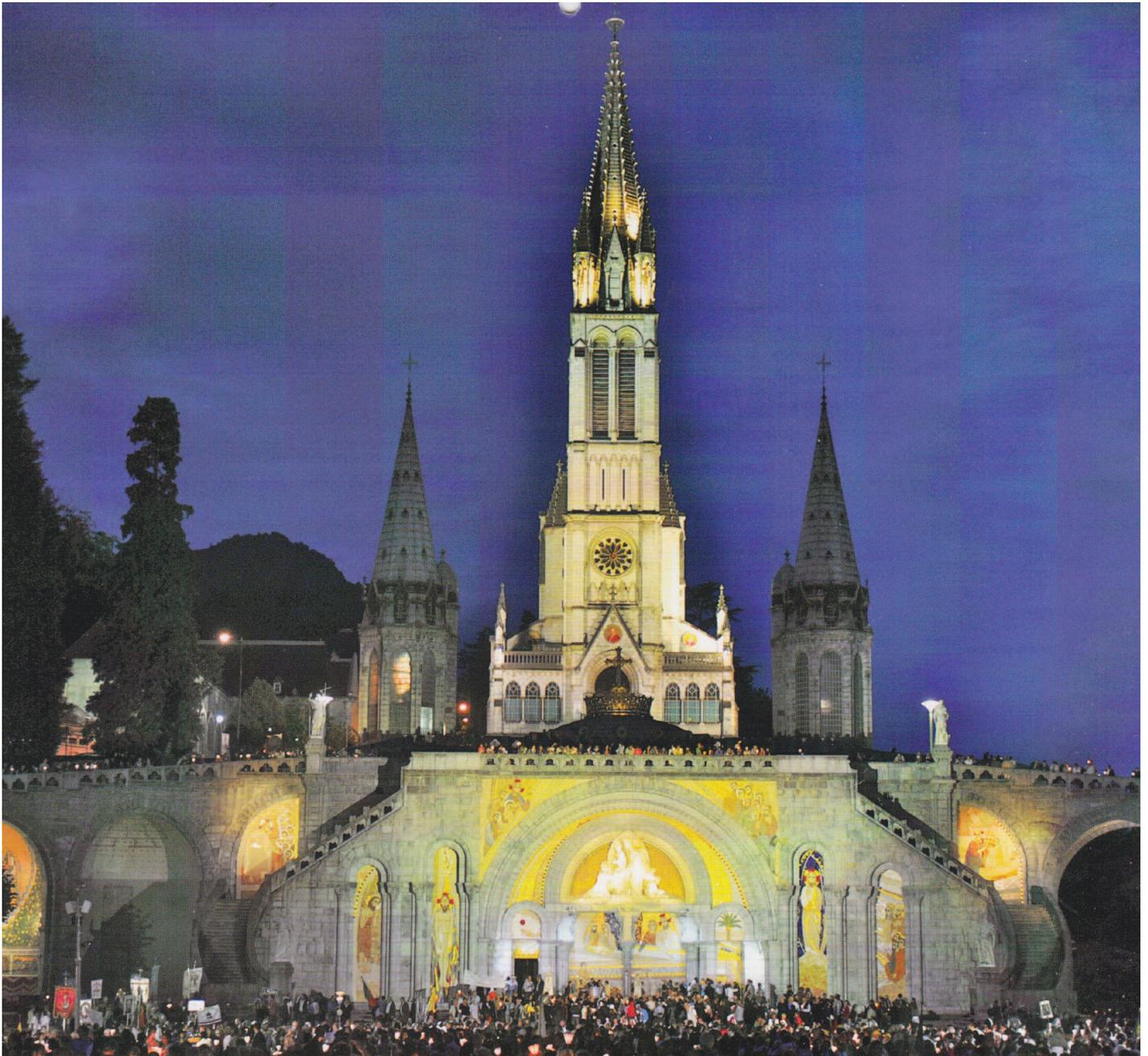


# Lourdes Echoes

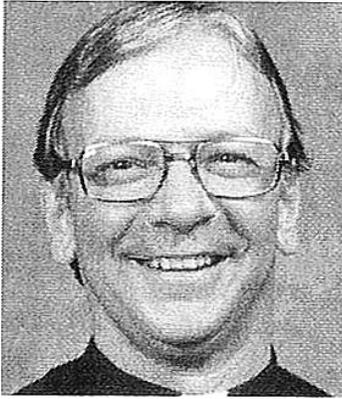
May-June, 2014

Vol. 76 No. 3

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



Daily evening Rosary Procession at Lourdes



REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

# THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

You will be reading this in the beautiful month of May. A month dedicated to Mary. A month of many happy memories. The crowning of Mary ceremonies at parishes and schools. The month when the first spring flowers start blooming. The month when many make their first communion. And it is the month when we ask you for a special donation to help us with the cost of printing and mailing the Lourdes Echoes to you. Each issue costs about twenty thousand dollars. We have always been able to send the Echoes out free due to the generosity of you, our readers. Mary continues to inspire you to help us.

Our blind man from Lynn is going to Lourdes! I was overwhelmed by your generous response to my appeal. So far we have received \$6,200.00, way more than enough. I am putting the surplus in a special account that we have to help sick children go to Lourdes. May the Blessed Mother reward your generosity.

You have been sending us names of people who might be interested in receiving the Lourdes Echoes. Thank

you. We need your help to spread the good news of Lourdes. You are continuing St. Bernadette's work. So many have never heard of Lourdes!

It has been a long, cold winter throughout much of the country. Our heating bills were 25% more than last year. Your generous offering of \$9,558.00 in the special envelope for heating really was a big help!

By the time you get this issue the great and wonderful feast of Easter will be over! He is Risen! That says it all. Jesus conquered sin and death. He is our everlasting hope. He promised his disciples (that's us) that he has gone to prepare a place for them. We believe in eternal life. Pope Francis touches upon this great truth in his Apostolic exhortation, "The Joy of the Gospel." I hope you read it. Any Catholic bookstore should have it for sale. We Christians are not meant to be "sourpusses" as the Pope says, but people of Joy.

Please keep in your prayers former readers who are helping us from heaven. Readers from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and Florida remembered the Lourdes Center in their wills. What a wonderful way to help

us do Mary's work. We must thank God for these generous donors who are an example to us all.

Our pilgrims will be on their way to Lourdes on June 29. They will remember all of us as they celebrate Mass at the grotto. As they take part in the wonderful and beautiful evening procession: praying the rosary, singing the Ave Maria, and holding their lighted candles as beacons of hope. I know they will have a very spiritual and uplifting experience. Once you have been to Lourdes, you never forget it. May the Blessed Mother be with them all as she leads them to her Divine Son Jesus.

God bless you all,

*Fr. Albert*



**Our email address is:**  
[ourlady@lourdescenter.org](mailto:ourlady@lourdescenter.org)  
[lourdescenter@yahoo.com](mailto:lourdescenter@yahoo.com)

**Our website is:**  
[www.lourdescenter.org](http://www.lourdescenter.org)



*Portrait of St. Bernadette by Leona Turner hangs in the library at the Shrine of St. Bernadette in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

## St. Bernadette's concern for her family and relatives

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

Even though St. Bernadette left the world to become a nun, she continued to have a genuine interest in the well-being of her parents, her brothers and sisters, and her relatives. This concern for them showed in the letters she wrote to them or about them.

When a person leaves to join the Religious life, it is true that he/she does so with the intention of making God and God's people the primary object of his/her life, much as when a man and woman marry, their primary concern is for each other, as well as for the family they hope to bring into the world one day. On the other hand, this does not exclude a tender regard and affectionate concern for one's parents and relatives. St. Bernadette

understood this well, and her correspondence gave ample evidence of it. There was no sign of coldness or indifference in the way she referred to them. On the contrary, she had nothing but love and affection for them.

Priests and Religious are sometimes accused of being "cold" and "indifferent" toward some of their parishioners. As a result, people take offense at the way they are treated, at times, by their priests. People regard priests highly. The standard by which they measure priests is considerably higher than the standard by which they measure most men. Not that priests should be put on a pedestal. It's just that, instinctively, people expect more from priests. I will always remember what happened to me many years ago when I was approached by a beggar for a handout. At the time, money was worth more than it is today. When I gave the man a quarter, he showed his disappoint-

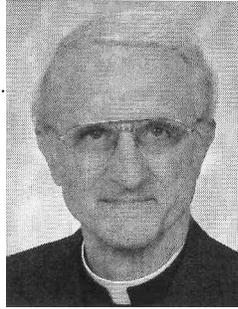
ment in his face, and I asked him, "Is anything wrong?" He replied, "Father, I can get this from anyone, but from a priest, I expect more than that!"

Jesus set a high standard for those He chose to do His work here on earth. When the Apostles argued among themselves as to who was the greatest among them, Jesus reproached them saying, "I called you to serve, not to be served."

St. Bernadette had a lot to teach us. Even when she felt obliged to reproach a brother of hers, she did so with kindness, not coldly or in an attitude of superiority. She realized that confrontation, unless done with love, doesn't work. Her letters reveal a sensitivity toward others that reminds us of the way Jesus felt towards the people who flocked to hear Him. In a word, He felt compassion and a genuine caring toward them, and St.

*Continued on page 5*

By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.



THE FIFTH JOYFUL MYSTERY

## The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

LUKE 2, 41-52

A mother's worst nightmare is to discover that her child is missing and possibly lost. Such is the case in this mystery. It happened this way. Upon returning from visiting the temple in Jerusalem Mary and Joseph come to realize that the child Jesus was not in the caravan among their kinfolk as they supposed. In consternation they returned to the temple.

On finding the lost child ( Jesus is about twelve years old ) Mary showed her maternal distress with these words, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety" Luke 2,48. Jesus' response is very telling, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house" Luke 2, 49 ? Jesus does not give recognition of Joseph as his

father but acknowledges his Father in heaven.

### Juggling Obligations

From what we know from the scriptures, Jesus , for the first time, is asserting his heavenly origin. In doing so he is, as we say, "cutting his mother's apron strings." The severance is not immediate. It is an intimation of what lies in store. At this point in his young life Jesus is already giving notice that he has come to do the will of his Heavenly Father and that his will trumps any other possible consideration - even a family obligation. But then comes the surprise! He returns with Mary and his foster father to Nazareth and was obedient to them But what is certain is that family ties and blood relationship will one day give way to that unique relationship that. " ...whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother " Mark 3,35. This obedience of faith will be the basis for Jesus' new family.

### Unknown Future

What of the reaction of Mary and Joseph? Let the Gospel tell us, "But they did not understand what he said to them" Luke 2, 50. This should not surprise us. Mary and Joseph lived with Jesus and therefore lived in the divine presence. But this was no heaven on earth. Mary's future with that of her Divine Child was not an illuminated path. We grope by moment to moment into the future learning by experience as we go. This is true of Mary as well. No crystal ball for us. None for Mary as well.

### Mary's Commitment

Mary's life with Jesus and what the future holds is comparable to wedding vows. A couple "not knowing the future" make their commitment to each other for "better or worse." As their life together unfolds with its "ups and downs", "joys and sorrows" and as they meet the challenges

*Continued on page 7*

## Readers Write

**R.F.** I had a bad infection on my foot, and I hoped NOT to have to go to a dermatologist, which for me would be too costly. After applying Lourdes water for a week or more with faith in Our Lady of Lourdes, I pressed it and there was no pain or excretion from infection. Finally, it was dry and clear of any residue. Please accept this donation to Lourdes Center for making it possible for me to use this sacred water.

**NC**

**M.L.** I once passed on a bottle of Lourdes water to a woman whose pregnant daughter had been told her baby boy had cysts on his kidneys. She took the Lourdes water and rubbed it on her abdomen. They took her to a specialist and he saw nothing wrong. He was born in January in perfect health! Praise God and Blessed Mother! **MN**

*More on Page 6*

## Fr. LaCasse

*Continued from page 3*

Bernadette did her best to demonstrate this kind of caring toward her family and relatives. She could have distanced herself from them by saying to herself, "I am no longer a part of the world I left behind when I joined the convent." That would have been the easy way out. But she, too, was called to a higher standard.

## 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

Last Chance ... 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: "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.

## Readers Write

**Sr. M.E.** I love the Lourdes Echoes. I'm writing from Lourdes Hall (Infirmery.) I'm 97 years old and the nun next to me is 99. The others at our table are in their 80's. Each gave me \$1.00 from their budget to send to help that blind man get to Lourdes in France. God bless your work. **KY.**

**M.A.** Thank you for all you are doing with your community for God's people. Enclosed is a wee offering for the blind man. I pray he gets to Lourdes and receives healing and graces. I wish this offering could be more. May God continue His great blessings upon you this holy season for a most joyous Easter. **OR**

**R.K.** For quite some time, I have been wanting to write a note to extend my gratitude to you for your informative articles on St. Bernadette. I have been endeared to her since 1964, when my mother and papa began getting the Lourdes Echoes after they lost my sister, Frannie Ann, at the age of 19. I want you to know that I never tire of reading about her in your articles. **NY**

## 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.*

NELLIE H. GREEN, AK  
JO BIEGLER, IL  
ELEANOR HAMITON, MO  
ALPHONSE SAMBOR, MA  
MARIE H. PEAK, VA  
MARY NEV, KY  
ALICE STEBLECKI, MA  
SR. EMILIEN MARIE, NH  
EVELYN BROWNE, NH  
MINNIE GARTNER, MT  
A. FRANCES WARRENER, MA  
LOIS FREEMAN, IL  
GINNY SMETANKA, TX  
SR. AGNES IMMACULATE, NY  
GEORGE TODT, IL  
SUSAN SHARKEY, MA  
MARTHA STACHURA, NE  
CECLIA T. SCHNEWEIS, KS  
SARAH DEICAS, PA  
SR. ELEANOR BRETON, CT  
IRENE BUZIAK, NY  
HELEN M. BROWN, LA  
PHYLLIS BURT, NH  
MARGARET NIENABER, NE  
CHAS & MICK RESTA, FL  
MARY ANN ECKENROD, IA  
CAROL MARIE WIESELER, WI

SR. HELEN DIONNE, CT  
SR. SIMONE LEBLOND, CT  
SR. ELLEN ANN VELLER, AL  
SR. BERNADETTE VOZOBULE, MI  
ROSALIE WIGGENER, SD  
TOM MCQUEENEY, NY  
PAUTIA VAIIVANTI, NH  
ANGELA MESSANA, MI  
EDWARD LOWRY, OR  
ROLAND HUNSADER, WI  
MARY RODLER, PA  
ROBERT PHINNEY, TX  
CONRAD CARON, MA  
CHESTER TREMPER, MA  
ANNA MARTINS, AK  
JULIA CHOLOK, AK  
JACOB NASH, AK  
TANYA MATCHIAN, AK  
MAGDALENA ATCHERIAN, AK  
SR. ANN THERESE SCHIFERL, WI  
HELEN T. PAKUTKA, IN  
ETIENNE DESROCHE, LA



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.

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

# Fr. Grispino

*Continued from page 4*

that occur they discover by experience what married life is all about. At first they had an appreciation of married life but it is in the living out their vowed life that they learn what it entails.

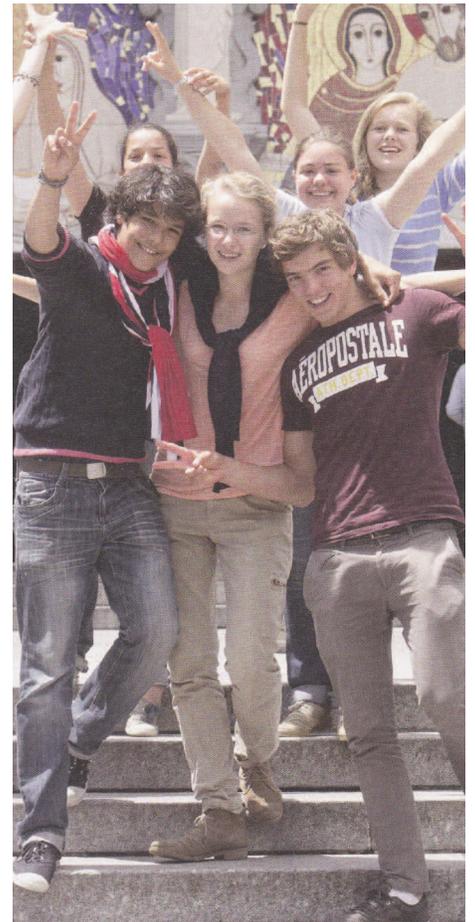
Mary's vow, "Let it be done to me as you say" Luke 1, 38, was her commitment to motherhood proposed by God through the angelic messenger. She certainly had some appreciation of what the future had in store in giving her consent. And like a vowed spouse Mary lived out her commitment not knowing fully what it all entailed. She was to learn from the experiences that occurred during her life with her Son. Incidents like the finding of Jesus were stored away and reflected on. The gospel puts it this way, "...and

his mother kept all these things in her heart " Luke 2, 51.

## **We Walk By Faith Not By Sight**

God alone knows what the future holds for each one of us. It is not for us to know but to trust in his divine providence . Like Mary we too cannot see in the future. The path before us is bathed in dense darkness. Nonetheless she persevered in her obedience of faith first uttered at the Annunciation, "Let it be done to me as you say" Luke 1, 38. It is for this reason that we call Mary "Woman of faith".

She teaches her children "...to walk by faith and not by sight " Second Corinthians 5,7.



*Young adults at Lourdes*

## *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 \_\_\_\_\_

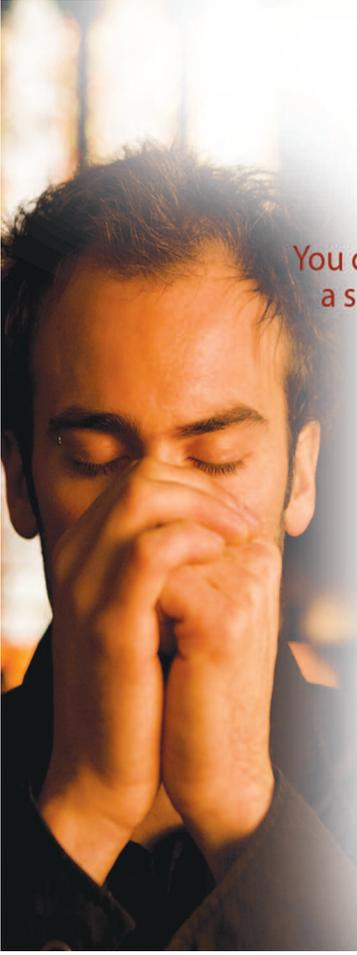
City \_\_\_\_\_

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



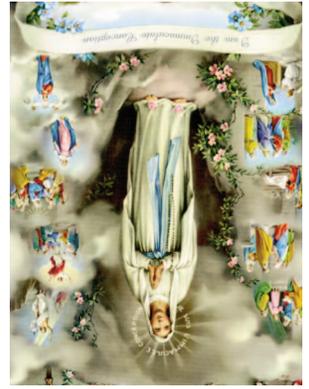
On Friday, May 9 & Friday, May 23  
and Friday, June 13 & Friday, June 27,  
The Marist Fathers & Brothers of the Lourdes Center  
will be praying for you.

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.

**Lourdes Echoes**  
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