

Lourdes Echoes

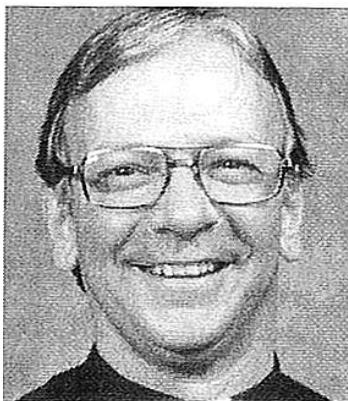
November-December 2015

Vol. 78 No. 4

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

An evening view at Lourdes BASILICA & GROTTA





REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

We were all happy to receive Pope Francis in his first ever visit to the United States. Mid-September was full of T.V. coverage of his historic visit. His humility and approachability and goodness was recognized by all who saw him.

I want to stress Pope Francis' great devotion to Our Lady. In his apostolic exhortation "The Joy of the Gospel" he states very categorically the importance of shrines such as Lourdes in France and Fatima in Portugal. He stresses that these shrines and all they stand for bring great comfort and consolation to so many Catholics. He encourages us to visit them and to make them known. It was very encouraging to me to read those sentiments expressed in the Pope's "Joy of the Gospel". The Daughters of St. Paul's bookstores and other Catholic bookstores carry the booklet. You can go on the internet to find the store nearest you or you can order it right online.

The Pope also stresses the importance of private devotions for the ordinary Catholic. He speaks as a pastor who has seen how such devotions are helpful to ordinary Catholics when they are visited by suffering, sickness, or sorrow.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

What a great gift Pope Francis is to all of us!

The internet is now part of our lives, but some people compare it to the Wild Wild West! The Marist Fathers are the official distributors of Lourdes water in the U.S. and Canada. The water that sprang from the ground when Bernadette followed Our Lady's directions to scratch the dirt near where Bernadette was kneeling is what we call Lourdes water. This is the water that has brought miraculous healing to many. That water is a gift from Mary. That water is free. It is not to be sold on the internet. I have explained that the \$3 donation we ask for is simply to pay for the costs of getting the water from Lourdes to Boston and then to you. So if you see on the internet Lourdes water being sold for \$10, \$20 a bottle, there is something wrong! To sell Lourdes water to make a profit is against Church Law. A priest cannot sell an absolution of sins. A Pope cannot sell his blessing. These are spiritual gifts to be given freely. We cannot buy a miracle; we can only pray for one.

Our East Wall is now all redone. I had hoped to have it done for May the month of Mary, but she decided it would be better in October, the month of the rosary. My sincere thanks to all of you who responded to my appeal many months ago. You gave us the

money we needed and it is all paid for.

And please remember in your prayers our many generous benefactors who help us continue this wonderful ministry of bringing the special water from Lourdes to so many Catholics. In June we got the news that a man from Michigan listed the Marist Fathers, Lourdes Center, Boston as a beneficiary of his IRA. In August we learned that a lady from Minnesota remembered the Lourdes Center in her will. These wonderful people are helping us from heaven!

May Our Lady of Lourdes bring down blessings upon their loved ones here on earth.

God's blessings on all of you on the coming feasts of Thanksgiving and Christmas.

God bless you all!

Fr. Albert



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

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

The secret to happiness

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

St. Bernadette spent only 35 years on earth, but by the time she died she had learned a great deal.

For example, she knew that the most important thing in life was to have a personal relationship with God, followed by the need to take care of her soul as well as her body and the importance of devotion to the Saints, who do three things for us: serve as an example to us not to live for ourselves alone; give us companionship so that we are never alone; and support us by their prayers, in our struggles for human happiness.

I am very often amazed at how little modern-day people depend on God and Religion for help in their search for human happiness. Instead, all too often, they turn to

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drugs and alcohol, as many celebrities have done. Parents have an obligation to teach their children early in life to avoid these pitfalls.

Many years ago, there lived a young man who was a real “playboy,” who believed that he did not need God to be happy (as many peo-

ple do today.) He lived for this life only, satisfying his lust for pleasure in every way. He fathered a son out of wedlock. One day, he came to his senses, realizing that he had to change his selfish way of living. His name was Augustine. He became a priest and a great Saint. One of his most famous sayings is “You have made us for Yourself, O Lord, and our hearts can find no rest until they rest in Thee.”

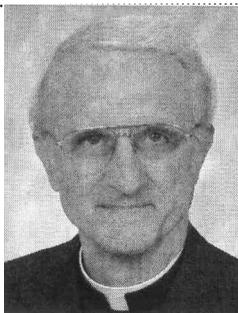
Many people today are unhappy. They live for themselves alone. They don’t realize the secret of happiness - reaching out to others and living for something bigger than themselves. Christianity changed the pagan Roman world hundreds of years ago from a cruel and selfish way of living to a better way to live. People forget that it was Christianity that saved the world from the barbarians in the early Middle Ages. We owe a great deal to the

Continued on page 5

By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.

THE SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY

The Scourging



The scourging of Jesus, that is, whip lashing Roman style, was a prelude to death by crucifixion. But in Jesus' case that was not supposed to happen! When Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, had Jesus whipped, it was his understanding that once the people who cried out for punishment would see the effects of being so pitifully beaten they would not demand the death penalty. The mere sight of the bleeding lacerated flesh of Jesus would satisfy the crowd's lust for punishment. So reasoned Pilate. We especially get this understanding from the words spoken by Pilate when he declared, "Behold the man!" John 19. 5. This expression had the force of saying, "Look at the beating endured by this man! Your thirst for punishment has been overly compensated." But Pilate was wrong. He misread the blood lust of the crowd.

Roman Brutality

The ordeal of scourging was itself extremely brutal. The victim

was stripped with hands tied behind his back. He was then tethered to a post in such a way as to allow his back to be bent to give full exposure to the lashes. These long leather strips were studded with pellets of lead and bits of shard bone. There is no doubt, maximum injury and pain was the intent. While Jewish law demanded forty strokes, Roman law had no such limits. The victim was beaten by more than one person wielding the whip. When one grew tired, another took his place. A passerby, Simon of Cyrene, was commandeered to assist Jesus in carrying the cross. This plainly shows the weakened effect the scourging had on Jesus. And the fact that Jesus was to die so quickly could well be due to this brutality. (See John 19, 32-34; Mark 15, 44-45.)

Jesus, the Lamb of God

As Christians we must not forget that Jesus was innocent of any

wrongdoing. What the slaughter of the lambs was purported to do – take away the punishment due to man's sins – Jesus, the Lamb of God, was allowing all this to happen in order to remove our sinful guilt by his suffering in our place. At long last, Jesus was to bring about the definitive healing sorely needed by humankind:

"Upon him was the chastisement that makes us whole, by his stripes we were healed." Isaiah 53, 5.

There are situations in life when gifts bestowed upon us demand gratitude. The drama of man's salvation began with the drawing of blood. What then does our reflection on the scourging of Jesus warrant? A most humble and heartfelt response of gratitude:

*Thank you, Jesus!
Thank you!
Thank you!*

Fr. LaCasse

Continued from page 3

Christians who came before us. Not that they were perfect, but when they did wrong, they acknowledged their wrong doing. The Middle Ages have been called the “Dark Ages,” but at least they had the Light of Faith.

Life, according to the Bible, is a struggle against the weaknesses of the flesh, the spirit of the world, and the temptations of the devil. The world is a battleground on which we fight against the tendency we have to live selfish lives, sinful lives.

Anyone can be good for a time, but to do so all our life is a real struggle. Some people say that Jesus did it all for us, that all we need is faith in our personal Savior. Not true. St. James, in his Epistle in the Bible says, “Faith without good works is vain. The devils also believe...and tremble.”

St. Bernadette would not be comfortable in the company of many people today. Her values were very different from theirs. On the other hand, she would have been very comfortable with Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

A Christmas Wish

FROM HOME TO HOME,
AND HEART TO HEART,
FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER.
MAY THE WARMTH AND
JOY OF CHRISTMAS,
BRING US CLOSER
TO EACH OTHER.

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

2015 Wall Calendar (Limited Supply).....\$5.00

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

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.

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.

CAROLINE IRRERA, NY
 BETTY VAGNINO
 NAOMI POSTERARO, PA
 BERNICE CHURCH, MO
 FR. ROGER BOURGEA, S.M., MA
 FR. JOHN SULLIVAN, S.M., GA
 IRMA JURGENS, IA
 ANGELINE JOHNSON, OH
 MR. AND MRS. EARL J. NICKLAS, TX
 ARLINE MOREAU, ME
 BERNADETTE MURPHY, IL
 AVIS DANIELS, FL
 HOWARD DOHERTY, OH
 SR. M. ANTHONY WARGEL, KY
 ARCHBISHOP GEORGE PEARCE, S.M., RI
 LORETTA VAN LEE, IA
 HENRY K. EDELMAN, NY
 CELESTINE GERESZEK, ND
 JOHN OLSZEWSKI, MA
 SR. MARY ANTHONY, NY
 KATHLEEN WALSH, PA
 THOMAS TRELOAR, AL
 ROSEMARY DENOVELLIS, IL
 FRANCES WARZECHA, TX
 CECILE BELAND, MD
 MARY LARDO, FL
 ALICE BERON, MD
 ANTHONY CIAPPINA, NJ
 LORETTA SAVER, IN
 CHRISTINE L. BOTTOM
 TINA & BILL KOWALSKI, AZ
 ROSE MAY WANYA, NM
 THOMAS SANO, FL
 MARGUERITE MAY, IL
 MABEL A. DIRKMAN, WI
 JOHN J. ENCANDELA, PA
 JOHN PAYTAVIN, LA
 LUCILLE WEATHERLY, CO
 EDWARD ARMEND, NC

JULIA FRESCO, IA
 ELEANOR MIGHT, WA
 JOHN T. ZUBER, CO
 ANNE BRECI, NE

MRS. JOAN MULKERIEN, MA
 GEORGE DODGE, MA
 VINCENT DE SANTI, LA

Readers Write

R.L. I enjoy reading the Lourdes Echoes. There is also something in it that uplifts the spirit. I am enclosing fifty-dollars. Use it where it is needed most. Please continue to pray for me and my family and friends. Thanks to Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Anthony. **CA**

T.B. Our four-year-old granddaughter has leukemia and has been in treatment now for two

years. She has finished with her chemotherapy and now in this final year of treatment we will see if she will be released from treatment.

I wish to thank Our Lady for her intercession and help with our girl. I have found encouragement in reading Echoes from Lourdes and in the prayerful relationship I have, particularly with Our Lady.

I also want to thank you for your work and the healing water you provide. **FL**



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



A special anniversary observance

The Lourdes Center chapel was the site of a Thanksgiving Mass in honor of the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Fr. Andrew Albert, SM, who leads the Lourdes Center in Boston. The celebration took place April 26, 2015. Fr. Albert's ordination took place on January 30, 1965 at his home parish of St. John the Baptist parish in Brunswick, ME.

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 offer-
ing 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 _____

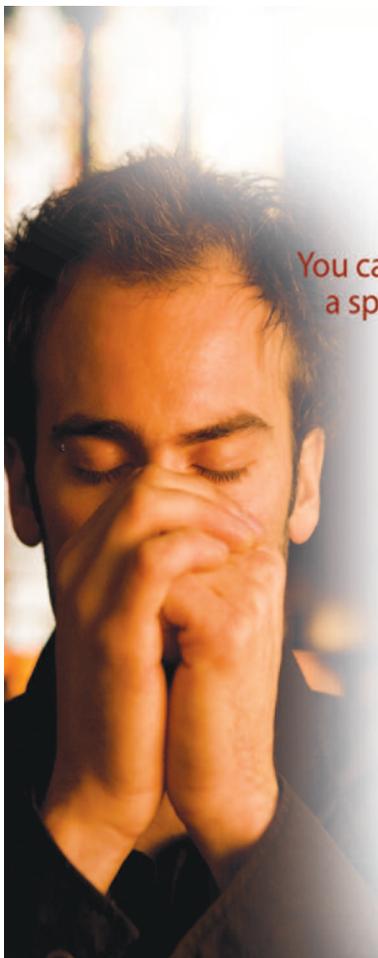
City _____

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, November 13 & Friday, November 27
and Friday, December 11 & Friday, December 25,
The Marist Fathers & Brothers of the Lourdes Center
will be praying for you.

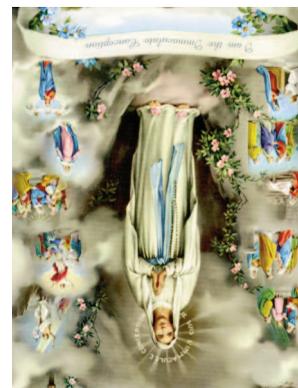
You can count on it, on the second and the fourth Friday of every month, we hold
a special prayer day when we say special prayers and offer Mass at our chapel
for our extended Lourdes family ... including you.

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*

Lourdes Center
Marist Fathers
Lourdes Bureau
P.O. Box 15575
698 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02215-2594
617-536-2761
www.lourdescenter.org
OurLady@LourdesCenter.org



Lourdes Echoes
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of Our Lady and interest in her shrine at
Lourdes.

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Asst. Director: Rev. Roland Lacasse, S.M.
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