

# Lourdes Echoes

March-April, 2016

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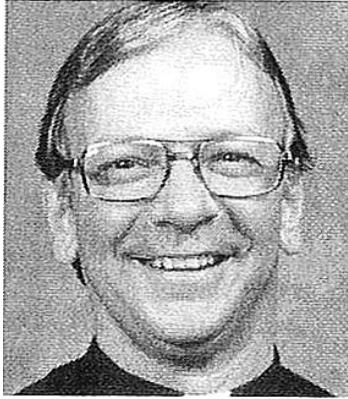
A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER • THE MARIST FATHERS & BROTHERS

## THE BASILICA OF THE HOLY ROSARY — LOURDES



Thousands of pilgrims say the Rosary and sing with lighted candles in hand.

# THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



**REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.**

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,  
The year 2016 is a very special one for the Marist Fathers and Brothers. This year we are celebrating the 200th anniversary of the pledge made at the special shrine of Notre Dame de Fourviere in Lyons France. The pledge was made by 12 seminarians and priests from the major diocesan seminary in Lyons France. The pledge was to establish a religious society in honor of Mary. Lyons is a large city in Southwest France.

Our founder, the venerable Jean Claude Colin was the priest who ultimately made that pledge become a reality. The Society of Mary was officially approved by Pope Gregory XVI on April 29, 1836. The venerable Jean Claude Colin was elected the Society of Mary's first superior general by his fellow Marists. Pope Gregory XVI, a very mission minded Pope, asked Father Colin to send missionaries immediately to the far off islands of the South Pacific and New Zealand. The first group of Marist missionaries left on Christmas Eve 1836 from the port of Le Havre. The trip to the islands where no priest had gone before took them 11 months.

When we Marists were asked in 1950 by Cardinal Cushing of Boston to

establish a Lourdes Center to make Lourdes water available to people in the U.S. and Canada and to organize pilgrimages to Lourdes, the Marists saw this as a wonderful way to make Mary more available to the people. As Marists we do not have a particular Marian devotion. We try to identify with Mary: to think like Mary, to act like Mary, to react like Mary. Our ministry here has a real missionary dimension. We want to bring the words and actions of Our Lady of Lourdes to the sick, the shut-ins – to all Catholics in the U.S. and Canada.

Please join us Marists in thanking God for that great pledge made on July 23, 1816 at the beautiful shrine of Notre Dame de Fourviere in Lyons France. God has indeed blessed the Society of Mary.

Fr. Roland Lacasse who you all know through his articles in the Echoes had spinal surgery at Mass General Hospital a few days after Christmas. The surgery was successful but Father needed to go to a rehab facility in Methuen, MA. The name of the facility is the Nevins Rehab and Nursing Home. Keep him in your prayers.

A disabled man and his elderly mother asked for our help to go to Lourdes with the June pilgrimage group. We agreed to help them. If any of you want to make a donation to help this disabled man and his elderly moth-

er, please send it to us and indicate that you are giving the money for that purpose.

Thank you all for your generous response in the Christmas envelope. We received over twelve thousand dollars. God bless your generosity. You will be receiving this issue of the Echoes half way through Lent. Easter is very early this year.

I hope you can participate in the Holy Week services in your local parishes or on television if you are unable to get to church. Holy Week is really the church's yearly retreat. It is during that week that we focus on the central mysteries of our faith – our redemption by the Lord Jesus – the foundation of his church and the Resurrection of Our Lord Jesus on Easter Sunday!

May you and your families all have a wonderful and Blessed Easter. 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)

# Why I became a priest

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

When I was in the fourth grade, I knew what I wanted to be. I grew up in a very religious family, was taught by Nuns and Brothers, admired the priests of my parish and wanted to be like them. Upon graduation from grammar school, I entered the Minor Seminary. To do so, I had to write to the Superior of the Seminary stating my reasons for wanting to be a priest. I said, "I want to help people to go to Heaven, and I want to help people to be happy." I was highly motivated and goal-oriented. For 13 years I applied myself assiduously for the dream I had, early in life, of becoming a good, holy priest, as competent as possible, as many priests have done before me. I never regretted my decision, after 56 years of serving God and God's people.



St. Bernadette had a brother who entered Religious Life (The Brothers of Christian Instruction) and she was so happy to learn of it. Even though he left after 3-4 years, the fact that he was willing to try to become a Religious Brother at all made her very happy. I once knew a young man whose parents actually disowned him

when he left for the seminary! Unfortunately, not all parents are happy about their sons or daughters showing an interest in the Religious Life nowadays.

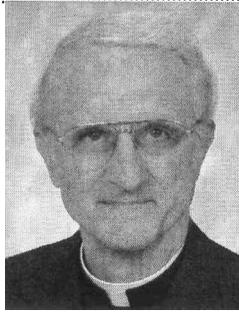
When I was growing up, the vast majority of parents regarded it an honor to have a priest or Religious in

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By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.

THE FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

*Jesus carries  
His Cross*



Did Jesus carry the crossbeam only while the vertical stake was already in the ground on Calvary? Or, did he carry both beams in the form of a cross? The humiliation, suffering, and the public heart-rending spectacle was all the same. So, also, would have been the crushing weight and with it the suffering to take away the sins of the world. The cross beam itself was estimated to be 30 to 40 pounds.

**Jesus and Simon  
Side-by-Side**

There is the opinion that it was the crossbeam only that Jesus carried. This, it is said, helps to explain the manner in which Simon of Cyrene assisted in carrying the cross when pressed to do so by the soldiers, Mark 15,21. The crossbeam was carried spanning the shoulders of Jesus as well as the shoulders of Simon. Both are sharing the beam, both are taking faltering steps, and both were able to see each other, Jesus through eyes blurred with stinging sweat and blood, Simon clear eyed. What were the thoughts of Jesus peering at Simon? What were the thoughts of Simon looking into the eyes of Jesus? It is not difficult to



understand that since Jesus had already been scourged and weakened by the loss of blood and trauma that when he staggered and fell to the ground three times during the way of the cross so did Simon in unison with Jesus, who halted, staggered, and even fell.

**Jesus Expiates Sin  
But Not Our Suffering**

At times, you may hear televangelists saying how Jesus suffered for our sins and took our place on the cross. Jesus suffered and died for our sins but that did not put an end to suffering. Suffering will be with us so long as we are this side

of heaven. To make satisfaction for sins committed after baptism is still required of each of us. It is called penance.

**Penance, the Loving  
Response to Grace**

Doing what is humanly possible is to give loving response to the unmerited gift of divine forgiveness for our sins. This is what we do especially during the season of Lent. We feel compelled prior to the great religious events leading to glory of Easter to assume voluntary acts of penance for sin. This may take many forms such as prayer, fasting, almsgiving, and acts of charity. And let us not forget to accept patiently the suffering mercifully measured out to us.

**The Church  
and the Body of Christ**

St. Paul has this to say on the subject of making amends for our sins: "...in my flesh I complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of the body, that is, the Church" Colossians 1,24. We the Church are the Body of Christ. We are the members,

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# Fr. Grispino

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Christ is the Head. If the Head suffers must not also the members? Being in solidarity with Christ means that he accepts our offerings of reparation and joins them to himself on the cross. Simon of Cyrene shared in the suffering of Christ. He reminds us that we, too, have a share.

## The Working of Grace

It is not that our sufferings are united to those of Christ for our

redemption. Rather, it is the redemption and atoning death of Jesus that makes possible the graces needed to share our sufferings. In this way he accepts these tokens of our love-response.

It is all like a child who presents to his father a birthday gift purchased with allowance money. As the parent, so Jesus accepts our gifts of love. Let us continue our Lenten journey as penitents with grateful hearts.

## 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

- 2016 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.*

ANNIE DAWSON, MA  
CHARLES M. CAMPBELL, IN  
JOYCE DUFRESNE, NH  
EDNA ZIEGLER, WY  
THERESA CHARLIE, AK  
ADELINE LINCOLN, AK  
THERESA E. MOSES, AK  
BESSIE M. JIMMIE, AK  
MARY J. AND TOM T. CARL, AK  
BESSIE WHITE, AK  
SOPHIE THERCHIK, AK  
BERTHA LINCOLN, AK  
RICHARD AMBRE  
HELEN HOFSTADT, FL  
EDWARD MOWBRAY, CA  
MARY DORIS SMITH, NJ  
STELLA GORHAM, IL  
JUDITH LASKEY, IL  
ROBERT GRAVEN, KY  
LEONORA KALVA, HI  
AGNES PEETERS, MI  
MRS. ALFRED SZYMBORSKI, PA  
SR. JOYCE BANTLE, WI  
FLORENCE COLEMAN, OH  
JOHN GRIFFIN, NY  
NATALIE HARDY, OH  
REGINA WYNNE  
MARY RETI, MI  
PAUL BOUCHER, MA  
FIRMIN KRUPA, MN  
BENJAMIN LAMBERT, NY  
PAULINE BOLDUC, ME  
DOLORES DEGIOVINE, SC  
ALICE CARBONNEAU, MA  
JEAN MAXWELL, MN  
JOHN THOMPSON, IA  
FR. D. DUNN, KS

MADLINE G. CHMIEL, MI  
MARY VOTZ  
DORRIS RENFOE, AZ

LOVERN TYSAR, OH  
PATRICIA HOTRA, CO  
LAURETTA C. BRAUN, SD

## Readers Write

**T.B.** I wish to thank Our Lady for her intercession in our family. We have been a split family for decades and I have hoped we would be reconciled and people would let bygones be bygones, but there has always been a lot of animosity between my siblings and we have never had a holiday together as most families do. I

have prayed to Our Blessed Mother for guidance and assistance in bringing us together, and this past Christmas I invited everyone to come and share Christmas eve with us and everyone but my brother in Iowa (who is in a nursing home) came and we dropped all our problems, rejoiced, and forgave! **IL**

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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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. Lacasse

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the family. Nowadays, I admire priests who remain priests despite all the negative publicity that surrounds them.

Priests and Religious live in two worlds – the physical world and the world of angels, of saints, and the world of those who have died and continue to live in the after-life. We take both worlds seriously. We are called to make the physical world a better world, and we are called to take seriously the world of the spirit. That's why we live the way we do. When people look at us, they are reminded that there is more to life than what we can see, hear and touch.

My heroes are not the celebrities who pass as “heroes “ in modern society. The real heroes are those who live, not for themselves but for others,

like the soldier who puts his life on the line so that we might enjoy peace and happiness, living in a free society. The real heroes are the fathers and mothers who devote their lives to the well-being and happiness of their children. The real heroes are those who are willing to risk their lives as firemen and policemen to save others. The real heroes are people like Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Father Damian of the Island of Molokai who devoted his life to the lepers there and who became a leper himself, as a result. The real heroes are people, both Religious and lay people, who are not selfish, greedy, or arrogant, willing to forget themselves to try to reach out to others. You don't have to be a Priest, a Brother, or a Sister, but it helps.



Statue of Bernadette praying in the Grotto 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 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, March 11 & Friday, March 25  
and Friday, April 8 & Friday, April 22,  
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.

