

Lourdes Echoes

May-June, 2016

22 Vol. 79 No. 3

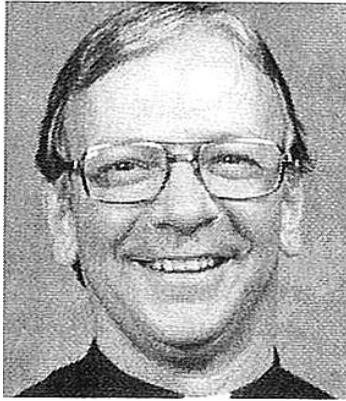
A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER • THE MARIST FATHERS & BROTHERS

THE GROTTTO AT LOURDES



Sisters line up at the Grotto for prayerful reflection

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

As I look at the photo on the cover page of this issue, memories flood back to my first visit to the Shrine at Lourdes.

It was 1976 and I was pastor of St. Anne's Church in Lawrence, MA. The year before, Pope Paul VI had declared 1975 a holy year of jubilee and I had led 30 parishioners on a pilgrimage to Rome. As we landed in Boston at the end of the pilgrimage, some of the pilgrims asked me, "Where are we going next year Father?" "How about Paris and Lourdes" someone said.

And so that's how I got to Lourdes in April 1976. The dream of any priest leading a group of pilgrims to Lourdes is to have the opportunity to offer Mass for the group right at the grotto where Mary appeared to Bernadette 18 times. As you look at the picture you can see the altar and the missal on it. Our group had permission to have a 6 a.m. Mass there. It is a very special place and a unique honor to be able to say Mass right there at the grotto. The statue of Our Lady of Lourdes in the picture marks the very spot where Mary appeared. I know our pilgrims going to Lourdes in late June will visit the grotto many times.

My sincere thanks to those of you who responded with donations to help the disabled man and his elderly mother get to Lourdes. It is not too late to help. Please send any donations to my attention.

We are now in the beautiful month of May. A month where we are mindful of Mary's presence in a special way. Her basic message to St. Bernadette was for us to love God and to pray and do penance for the conversion of sinners. Mary has always shown herself to be a real mother who loves and cares for her children. She is there to help us carry our sorrows and burdens and to accompany us in our joys. I hope you do what you can to spread the good news of her love for all of us. That might mean introducing your friends or relatives to the Lourdes Echoes.

We exist to make the miracles of Lourdes known to everyone. We exist to make the healing water of Lourdes available to everyone. The Lourdes Echoes publication is our main tool. This month I have included an envelope to help us with the mailing and printing of the Lourdes Echoes. Each mailing and printing costs us \$20,000.00. As you know we put out six issues of the Echoes of Lourdes

every year.

We need your help to do that. My thanks to so many of you who send us regular donations. All our readers should say a prayer of thanks for those faith filled Catholics who remember the Lourdes Center and its ministry in their will. They help us from heaven. And we thank Our Lady of Lourdes for sustaining this ministry for more than 65 years. We Marists are proud to be her instruments. We constantly keep in mind the motto of our own Marist Saint Peter Chanel, "To love Mary and to make her loved."

God bless you,

Fr. Albert



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

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

We must practice what we preach

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

Toward the end of her brief life here on earth, St. Bernadette suffered a great deal. One of the

nuns in her Community suggested that she drink some of the water from the miraculous spring at Lourdes, but she declined saying, “That water was not intended for me.” Maybe so, but if we had been in her place, we would most likely have given it a try, don’t you think?

Sooner or later, each one of us will have to face some form of bodily ailment. Until then, we probably had friends or members of our family who have been dealing with illness for some time. Did we succumb to the temptation of telling them that they had to be patient before they could expect to be feeling better? I hope not,



because there’s an old saying that says, “It is easy for those who are well to preach patience to the sick.”

As Christians, I like to think that when our time comes to be sick, we will remember to unite ourselves to Jesus on the cross who suffered terribly for each one of us. In other words,

I hope that we will remember to practice what we preach.

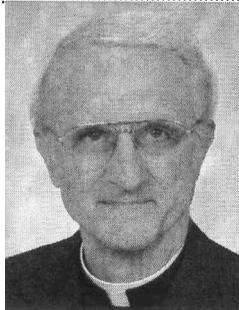
There is an old poem that I recall that went like this...

*“It is easy enough to be pleasant,
When life goes along like a song.
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By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.

THE FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY

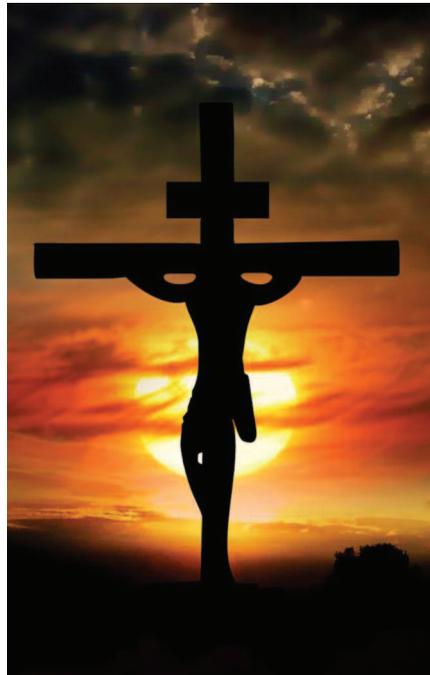
The Crucifixion



Did the spike pierce the palm of Jesus or his wrists? There are good reasons to say the wrists. This would explain the fact that the arms stretched out on the cross would be held in place and hold the weight of the body. Support for this opinion is not only archeological findings and the Shroud of Turin, but also the Greek word (Gospels were first written in Greek) for “hand” includes the wrist.

No Bones Broken

On the feast of Passover it was demanded that the lamb to be sacrificed must be without blemish and with the command, “...you shall not break any of its bones” Exodus 12, 46. John sees this fulfilled when he says that the bodies of the condemned had to be removed because of the approaching Sabbath. And so to hasten each one’s death their legs had to be broken. This was to prevent them from using the footrest as leverage to raise themselves in order to breathe. But the legs of Jesus were not broken. John explains what the soldiers did, “...when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not



break his legs but one of the soldiers thrust his lance into his side.” John 19, 33-34.

What of Damage to the Ribs?

Even the lance thrust through the heart of Jesus was guided by the soldier from below the cross and found its mark passing under the ribcage. No bones broken! The lamb sacrificed in the temple whose bones must not be broken was a mere foreshadowing of the reality of Jesus, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the

world” John 1, 29.

Blood of Christ, Our Passover Lamb

Jesus, the Lamb of God, whose blood was shed in a sacrificial death on the Cross became our means of freedom from sin and the tyranny of Satan. The land of promise was not a piece of real estate but heaven opened for all. Blood was of the utmost importance. The biblical truism was clear, “No atonement for sin without the shedding of blood” Leviticus 17, 22. What was merely foreshadowed in the shedding of the lamb’s blood on the doors and the blood on the altar of the temple was fulfilled by the shedding of the blood of the true Lamb of God on the altar of the cross.

Eating the Passover Lamb

The eating of the Passover lamb was mandatory, “...it must be eaten...” Exodus 12, 46. The eating of the flesh of Jesus, The Lamb of God, is likewise mandatory, “...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life with-

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Bernadette Facts

Feast Day: April 16

Patron of illness, people ridiculed for their piety, poverty, shepherds, shepherdesses, and Lourdes, France

Birth: January 7, 1844

Death: April 16, 1879

Beatified In: 1925

Canonized: by Pope Pius XI, Dec. 1933



Fr. Grispingo

Continued from page 1

in you” John 6, 53.

No wonder the Church advocates that Catholics always be in a right

relationship with God (state of sanctifying grace) and encourages reception of Holy Communion at Mass....especially at Easter time!

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.

DOROTHY KARN, NJ
 HELEN T. DAVID, NE
 WINNIE PERGUE, LA
 MARIE SKOREWICZ, NY
 MARGARET KLAMO, IN
 THERESA M. JARBOE, FL
 MARION CIEREK, NY
 SR. MIRIAM ANTONIA, NY
 ROSE SCHMIDT, OH
 HAZEL ACHEE, AL
 ANN R. HARGRAVES, IL
 AGATHA J. SHERMAN, NV
 NORMA WESTERVELT, IL
 IRENE S. HAYES, MN
 SYLVAIN FARR, PA
 ANN PERRELLI, CT
 CLAIRE KELLY, NY
 ANNA M. SONGALO, MA
 RITA & AL KRUCHTEN, MN
 MARY DONOVAN, MA
 MARGARET MCHUGH, NY
 JOYCE PLOOF, WA
 SR. JUDITH MILLER, NY
 CATHERINE FITZGERALD, MA
 RAYMOND ALBRECHT, MN
 MARIE CLEARY, MA
 JUDGE JOSEPH M. GUARINO, TX
 LOUISE SLEGER, WI
 MARY A. DIMICELI, TX
 MICHAEL TIERNEY, MD
 RUSSELL ROMANO, PA
 AFRANONA ACEVEDO, WI
 HILDA CUNDALL, FL
 JOSEPHINE DEFINA, NY
 THOMASINA GEGAN, NJ
 MARIE CLEARY, MA
 LORY M. MOODY, CA

SOPHIA B. QUAY, FL
 ELZIE CORMIER, LA
 GLADYS BASS, SC
 BONNIE LEUEDERS, NE
 MARTA URANGA, TX
 A. CIRRINGIONE, IL
 CECILE ST. PIERRE, MA
 MARGARET VOGA, IL
 OLIVE A. CHRISTIAN, FL
 JOHN BRIGHAM, WI
 GEORGE FRY, MI

SOSEFINA TOLOLO, CA
 OLGA COLAGIOVANNI, MA
 CONRADA B. SIMPLICIANO, CA
 LAWRENCE SHCMUHL, GA
 AGNES FREY, AL
 BECKY HAGAN, KY
 PATRICIA KMON, NJ
 EUGENE SCHOENBAUER, MN
 AGNES A. RITTER, MO
 ANNE BEERS, CT

Readers Write

J.S. I would like to thank Our Lady for prayers answered. My son had expected to lose his job last year with absolutely no option for another in his unique field. We

are nearly one year from the original threat from his employer and he hasn't been laid off yet. We continue to pray that he will not lose his job as he and his wife have two children and are trying to erase debt from a much earlier time in their lives. With thanks. **NY**



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

Fr. Lacasse

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*But the one who's worthwhile,
Is the one who can smile
When everything goes
dead wrong!"*

Last July, I wrote an article entitled "What Are Your Inner Resources?" In other words, what do you rely upon when you need help? Religious-minded people rely on prayer, their faith and their close relationship with God and the Blessed Mother. You can be sure that St. Bernadette did that in her moments of pain and suffering. Do we do the same?

We've been told that an awful lot of people use drugs or alcohol to get by. We've also been told that church

attendance is way down, compared to what it used to be. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that there may be a connection between the two and what about road rage? Is it likely that good, God-fearing people would engage in it?

We are all the product of what we aspire to become. One of my favorite sayings is "Be patient with me. God isn't finished with me yet." But the fact that we're trying to be better says a lot about the kind of people we are. Hopefully, by the time we die, we will have made progress. By the grace of God, and only by the grace of God, will it happen, but a little help on our part will help too.



Painting depicts Bernadette's humility upon meeting Our Lady.

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 _____

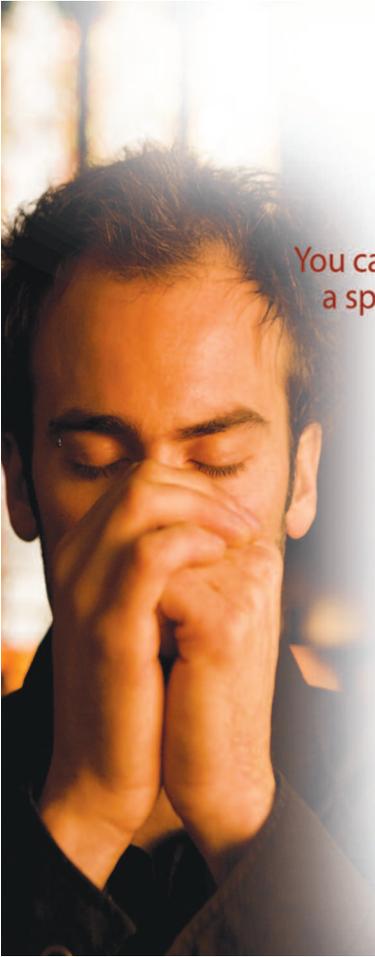
Does this person receive Lourdes Echoes?

Yes No

If not, should we send Lourdes Echoes to them?

Yes No

PLEASE ALLOW 3-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



On Friday, May 13 & Friday, May 27
and Friday, June 9 & Friday, June 23,
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.

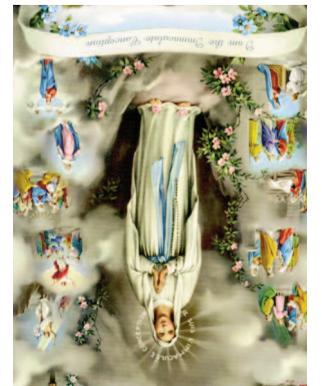
Please send us your intentions: _____

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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of Our Lady and interest in her shrine at

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