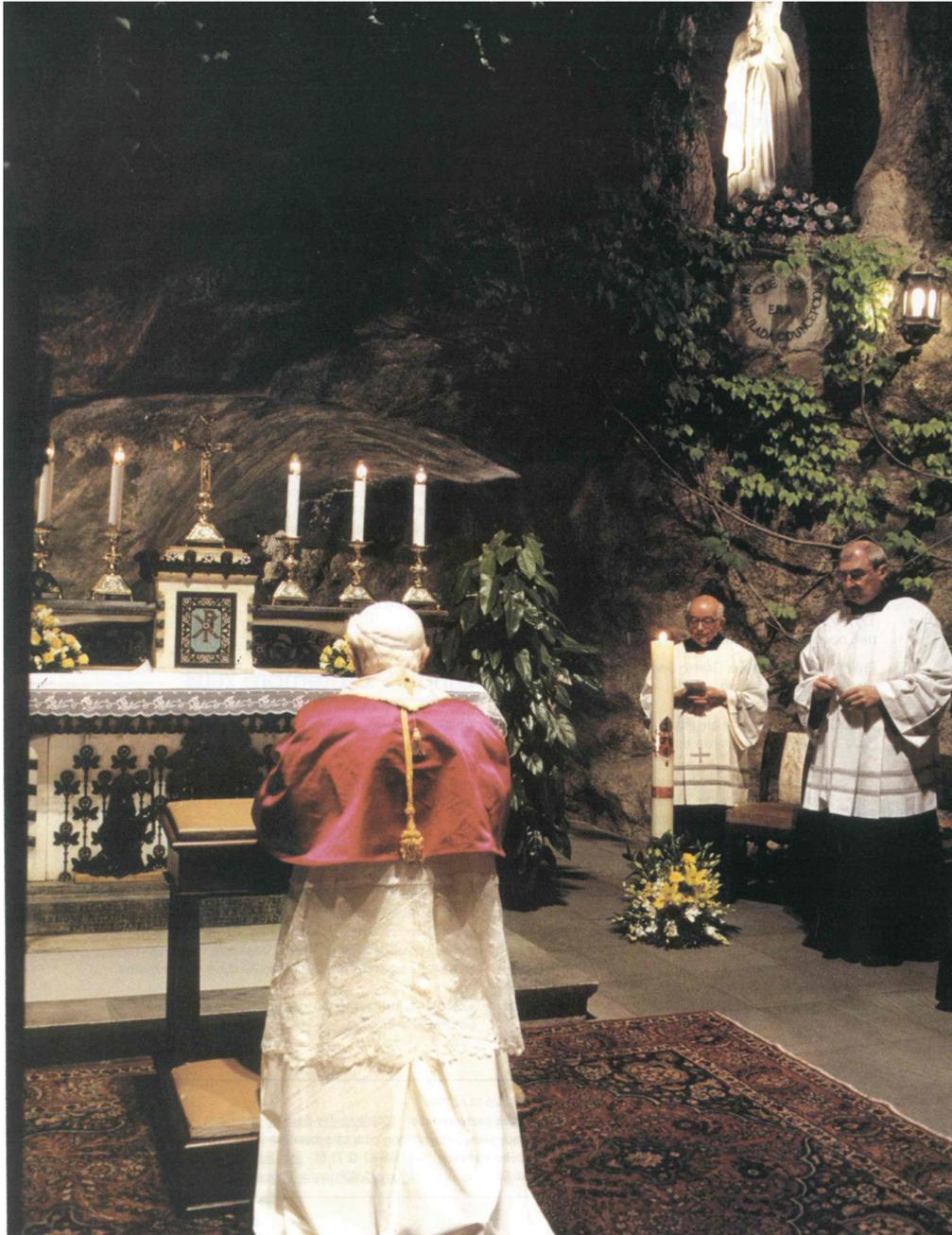


Lourdes Echoes

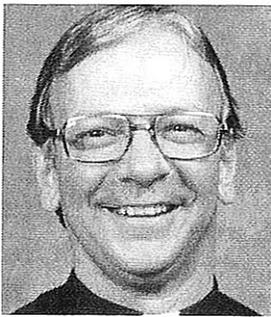
July-August, 2016

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



BENEDICT XVI AT LOURDES GROTTO 2008



FR. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

Here we are in the middle of summer. Usually in the July-August issue I do not include a donation envelope. But I need your special help.

Our elevator is 53 years old. It was put in the year the Marist Fathers bought this property in 1962. It is an absolute necessity and not a luxury. We use it constantly to bring the large barrels of Lourdes water from the basement floor to the 3rd floor where all the packing and mailing takes place. We use it to bring up the small Lourdes bottles, the boxes the water is shipped to you in, as well as many other supplies.

We do make a budget for the financial year. There is an item called equipment maintenance. But we did not foresee all the repairs. For whatever reason beginning in March we have had a series of problems with the elevator that required many service calls and new parts. As a result we had to spend well over \$8,000. So if any of you feel you could help us pay these costs, please use the donation envelope enclosed in this issue of the Echoes. I consider all of you our co-workers in this special ministry. Your love for and gratitude to the Blessed Mother in the many

letters you write to us is evident. In the name of Mary I ask for your help.

Thank you for your gifts to help the disabled man get to Lourdes. Twenty pilgrims left from Logan Airport on June 26th. They will join up with others leaving from Washington and New York. I pray that they have a safe and prayerful pilgrimage. I am sure they will return with an infusion of love for Our Lady of Lourdes.

Many of you are ordering Lourdes water from our website on your smart phones, tablets, and computers. Many of you wrote to me and suggested that we have a DONATE button on the website so that at the same time that you place an order for water you could also record an extra donation. This has now been done! There is a donate button on every page of our website. Everything is handled by PayPal, which accepts all credit cards. Please let us know if you have any problem ordering online. Do not call our Webmaster. Call us here at the Center 617-536-2761.

We Marists were officially approved by Pope Gregory XVI as the Society of Mary in 1836. The Pope asked us to send missionaries immediately to the islands of the South Pacific (Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, New Hebrides) where the word of God had not yet been preached. And so on Christmas Eve 1836 eight Marist priests and brothers got on a freighter at the port of LE HAVRE in France for the 11 month

trip to the South Pacific islands. Lay people who were already involved with the Marists in France paid for the missionaries' travel expenses.

So the tradition of lay people working with us in our ministries goes way back to our beginnings. Just as the first missionaries were eager to bring the good news of the gospel to the people of the South Pacific, I hope you will be eager to bring the good news of Lourdes to others. There are still millions who know nothing about Lourdes, St. Bernadette, and the apparitions of Our Lady. Refer them to our website. Send us their names so we can send them the Lourdes Echoes.

God bless you and may the love of Mary grow ever stronger in your hearts.

Fr. Albert



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

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

St. Bernadette would heartily agree with Joe

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



Joe Fitzgerald is a columnist for *The Boston Herald* daily paper, and last October he

wrote an excellent article in which he stated that “crime is a reflection of a moral breakdown, a failure to teach right from wrong.” Studies reveal that though the U.S. has only 5% of the world population, it has 25% of the prison inmates! A prison warden once said that young kids now coming into our jails have no concept of the difference between right and wrong! All of which leads us to ask, “What is happening to the America most of us remember?”

I am convinced that without God and religion, society degenerates into behavior that is cruel and barbaric. That is why we need to come to our senses before it’s too late. We have no guarantee that our country will continue to be the “home of the free and the brave,” the hope of the rest of the world.

“Without God and religion, society degenerates into behavior that is cruel and barbaric.”

We say “In God we Trust,” but in practice, do we really?

All too often, it takes a crisis, a disaster, or an illness to make us realize our need for God. During World War II, our churches were crowded. There was a saying among our military men, “There are no atheists in foxholes.” Someone recently said to me, while reflecting on the floods and fires we have experienced in the past, “Was God trying to get our attention?” Maybe He was!

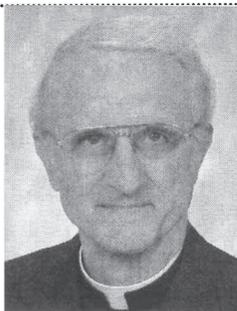
When we were young, healthy and strong, there was a temptation to act as if we didn’t need God or worry about the afterlife. But as we grew older (and hopefully wiser) we began to realize that God was always there, waiting for us to wake up and pay attention to Him. We could ig-

nore Him, but eventually we had to admit His existence, as well as our need for Him.

St. Bernadette was only 35 when she died. But it’s all she needed to realize why she was created and what was the secret of happiness, her own as well as that of others. We can all learn from the Saints, but we have to be willing to pay the price. St. Augustine was a playboy before his conversion, thanks to the prayers of his saintly mother. The Saints taught us how to live, how to suffer, and how to die. It has been said, “We die pretty much as we have lived.” One of my favorite prayers is “Lord, help me to grow old gracefully, and to die with dignity.”

To do so is no easy task. We need all the help we can get, especially the help from “The Man Upstairs.” But how can we realistically expect help from God if we have ignored Him most of our life? Every day we should thank God for the gift of a new day and the opportunity it provides to get to know Him better, love Him more, and serve Him more generously. After all, what are we here for?

The Luminous Mysteries of The Holy Rosary



These five new mysteries under the title: The Luminous Mysteries spotlight the major events in the public ministry of Jesus. Each event reveals something of the person of Jesus. In this way, the teachings of Jesus proclaiming the kingdom of God along with his deeds illumine the pathway leading to the kingdom. This kingdom, long ago prophesied in the scriptures, becomes manifest in the very person of Christ, “The Light of the World” (John 8, 12). The overarching maternal advice kept in mind as we contemplate the mysteries of the rosary are the words of Mary, “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2, 5).

The First Luminous Mystery: Baptism of the Lord

A priest was celebrating the Sacrament of Baptism of a child slumbering in the arms of its mother. At the very moment he is performing the essentials of the sacrament the child suddenly becomes wide-eyed and throws up his hands into the air! The priest later remarks to the mother how the baby became awake at the exact moment of conferring the graces of the sacrament. Her response, “Oh that was when I squeezed his toe. I didn’t want him to be asleep at his own baptism!”

Sleeping Adults?

For a child to be asleep makes little difference for the spiritual benefits bestowed in the Sacrament of Baptism. It makes a big difference for an adult to go through life and forget the profound meaning of baptism.

Baptism of Jesus Reflects Our Own

Matthew 2, 16-17

Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Notice the Three Divine Persons mentioned or implied in the Scriptural quote, “...the heavens were opened and the holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from the heavens, ‘You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.’”

Jesus begins his ministry “...in the power of the holy Spirit” Luke 4, 14. By our own baptism in water and the holy Spirit we, too, become children of God in the Son of God. And like Jesus we, married or single, are given a ministry to live the Christian life in the power of the holy Spirit.

Baptism a Plunging

We immediately think of water. But it is not the water we are plunged into. It is Christ! St. Paul tells us, “...we are baptized into Christ Jesus...” Romans 6.3. This sense of bonding with Christ is also the meaning in the word christening. To be christened means: made into Christ!

Like a Marriage

In marriage the woman takes on the name of the husband. The reason for this is to show the union as Jesus states, “...a man shall leave his father and mother and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two but one flesh” Mark 10, 7-8. In becoming “one” the biblical thought is that of becoming something new that was not there before! At our baptism we become the Bride of Christ. And, as in marriage, we take on the name “Christian.”

The Christian Way of Life

Now if we try to live a life other than a Christian way of life we will be courting disaster. We would be like a goldfish that decides it wants to live out of the fish tank and lie on the carpet and cozy up to the fireplace. It will more than flop around gasping for air. It will be its end.

If we fail to live up to our name, Christian, another Christ, and not live under the authority and love of him whose name we bear and as the “new creature” 2 Corinthians 5, 17, we are by our new birth, we too will be courting disaster. We are not becoming who we are. We are sleeping through our baptism. If that be so, may Mary, our Mother, pinch our toe and wake us up!

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.

SR. GRACE M. PIRACCI, MA
ROBERT STRYCHALSKI, NY
MRS. D.H. FAIRLY, TX
EDWARD BRYNDAL, OH
LESLIE TROJACEK, TX
MARY PASTERNAK, OH
JIM WILLIAMS, OH
JOSEPH KEREKES, CA
CHARLES DOUGHERTY, NV
SUSAN HEINS, IL
CAROL WILLAX, NY
ARTHUR RIDDELL, VA
DOMINIC J. ROY, ME
SR. MARGARET DANIELS, OH
JOHN HICKS, PA
TURNER DAVIS, NC
ELLEN YAMBOR
DOROTHY PHELPS, FL
SANDRA SALVATORE
RUTH MARY MEYERS
GERRY ZAKREWSKI
BETTY J. MCENERY, WI
VERONICA SAVER, MT
MARY PRESTIGIACOMOU
ANNETTE & GENE CONWAY, NY
FRANK E. ROSS, MI
ISABELLE MARTINEAU, NH
MADELINE LINDORFER, NJ
EDWARD O'MARA, MI
SR. MARGARET JOSEPH MOKES, SSJ, PA
SR. JUDITH MILLER, NY
ROSE MARY AUDINO, NY
WILLIAM HELGERSON, MN
STEPHEN & CECILE BAKER, MA
ELIZABETH FRITZ, AZ
FRANK & LORRAINE HEJMEJ, MO
HENRY SOSNOWSKI, NY
VERONICA SAVER, MT
SR. MARY D. FOSS, MI
SR. MARY LAURENCITA, IN
BETTY MCENERY, WI
VIRGINIA LALUMIA, LA
ERNEST W. SHAW, PA
MARY E. MCDONALD, IN
MARY V. FELLOWS, KY
GLORIA MELOGRANA, GA
PATRICK MULROY, IN
CONSTANCE FEDERICO, NY
AGNES ZRUBECK, KS
WILLIAM R. SEYDEL, IL
ALLEN W. MCDONNELL, MO
MARY V. FELLOWS, KY
GERALDINE MYATT, FL
DOROTHY HUGGLER, NY
FLORENCE MARY PFANNES, WI

F. WELSCHMEYER, MO
MARY E. PAGANO, NJ
PATRICK MULROY, IN
IRENE KAY, MI
RICHARD M. HANISITS, IL
CAROLYN S. DODD
EDNA BREITBACK, IA
FREDA BLAHUT, IL
HELEN STRUZI, IL

Who am I to judge?

I was shocked, confused, bewildered as I entered Heaven's door,

Not by the beauty of it all, nor the lights, nor its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven who made me sputter and gasp ...

The thieves, the liars, the sinners, the alcoholics.

There stood the kid from 7th grade who swiped my lunch money twice.

Next to him was my old neighbor who never said anything nice.

Joe, who I always thought was rotting away in hell,

was sitting pretty on Cloud 9, looking remarkably well.

I nudged Jesus, 'Hey, what's the deal? I'd like to hear Your take,

How did all these sinners get up here? It must be some mistake.

And why is everyone so quiet, so somber, please just give me a clue.'

'Hush, hush, child,' he said, 'They're all in shock. No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

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.

Readers Write

F.N.: Please send me six bottles of Lourdes water. I use the water on my knees, feet and parts of my body that have pain. I bless myself every morning and before I retired at night. My left knee hurts me so bad but with blessing with holy water from Lourdes I can cope with the pain. My back has pain at times but, again, using the Lourdes water helps ease the pain Please pray for me so that I might get better. **Tyler, TX.**

R.L.: Enclosed please find a donation I promised Our Lady for favorable results from a CT-scan I had on my lung, the doctor said my lungs looked better than he has ever seen them. I have to go back in three months for another CT-scan. Please pray for my daughter to have a safe, normal pregnancy. She's expecting twins. Please pray to see my daughter successfully through the delivery and the twins born alive, healthy and normal. **Summit, NJ.**

M.O.: Thank you for sending me the Lourdes water. I would like to order some again. I am still battling cancer; the Lourdes water has given me strength to continue my treatment. I also appreciate the Lourdes Echoes newsletter and hope you will continue to send it. I am enclosing a check for the Lourdes water and the Echoes subscription. God bless you for your fine work. **Meredith, NH.**

Gift Center

The following gift items are available for order from the Marist Lourdes Center in Boston.

Order from The Lourdes Center

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.

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

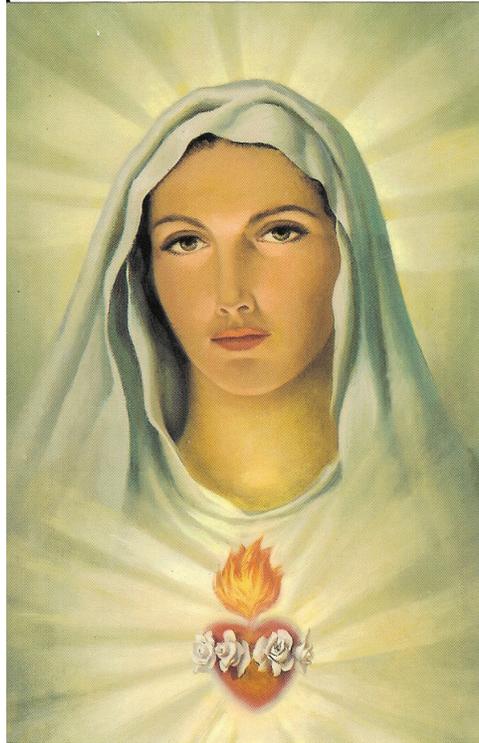
698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

Mary, 'full of grace'

Following is written by Brother Guy Touton, o.p. It is taken from his meditation titled "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Before the creation of the world, before the formation of the mountains, a new idea germinated in God in order to prepare for the coming of His Son. His idea took shape in Mary. A fresh idea, pure as crystal, in order to do everything possible so that no trace of sin could stain the Incarnation of His Son.

The conception born of God who wanted a woman to be the dwelling, the Ark of His Son, a most welcoming womb for the Intelligence of all things, it is her: it is given to Mary at the right time. God is God, and He is faithful to His thoughts. "For as the rain and the snow come down from Heaven, and do not return



there until they have watered the earth ... so shall my word not return to me empty but shall accomplish that which I propose" (Is 55:10-11).

Since God is Holy, of the highest source, without the trace of a shadow, absolute light, Mary His creation is His purest conception, the perfect idea of all conception: God's desire became reality, and what a delight! Conception itself is conceived. Mary is what she received: she is personified transparency, transparency to the light. If the light is a spring, the water of the light penetrated the intimate grotto of her heart. She is conception made woman, so to speak. She is the saint of all saints, the diamond apex of all creation.

Mary is preserved from original sin, adorned with grace, "filled with grace."

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 _____

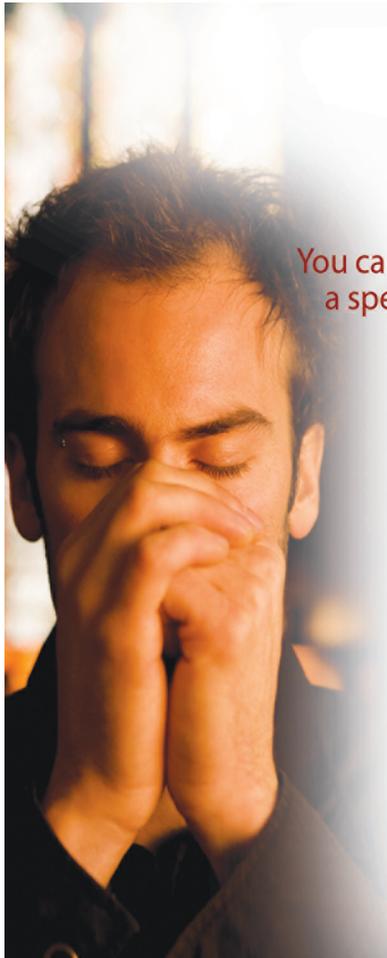
Does this person receive Lourdes Echoes?

Yes No

If not, should we send Lourdes Echoes to them?

Yes No

PLEASE ALLOW 3-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



On Friday, July 8 & Friday, July 22
and Friday, August 12 & Friday, August 26,
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.

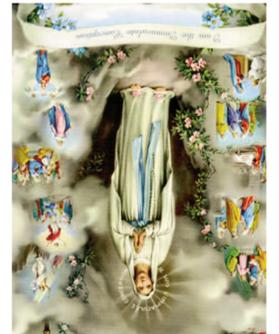
Please send us your intentions: _____

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.
Ass. Director: Rev. Roland Lacasse, S.M.
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of Our Lady and interest in her shrine at
Lourdes.

Lourdes Echoes



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OurLady@LourdesCenter.org

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