

Lourdes Echoes

September - October, 2016

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



THE INCORRUPT BODY OF SAINT BERNADETTE

AT THE CONVENT IN NEVERS, FRANCE



FR. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

My most heartfelt thanks to all of you who responded to my request for help for the elevator, either in prayer or with a donation. As of August 5th we have received \$11,600.

Fr. George Szal, a Marist priest, has been one of the chaplains on both the 2015 and 2016 pilgrimages to Lourdes. I asked him to write down some of his thoughts and reflections. Here they are:

My eyes filled with tears of joy and I laughed the first time I entered the domain of Lourdes on pilgrimage. Surrounded by thousands of Catholics from all over the world, the young and old, the rich and poor, some who were sick and many who were well, I thought to myself, "At last I am really home!" I have the same emotional reaction now as I remember the thrill of it all. It came home to me then, as it sometimes does at such special times, that Jesus Christ, His triumph over death, and His promise of Eternal Life with Him are the most real thing in the world. Deep inside of myself I felt a tremendous gratitude for the gift of my Catholic Faith, and for my family and all of those who had strug-

gled so hard to pass that faith on to me. With a deeply felt emotion there came to my mind images of my mom teaching me the rosary, my dad taking us to Mass at Our Lady Queen of Heaven Parish, the sisters of St. Francis teaching me how to sing to Mary and pray to her for my vocation. Mary it was who, by gracious choice, called me to priesthood in the Society of Mary. So perhaps now, you the reader can understand why I was stirred by such powerful feelings when I entered Mary's house at Lourdes.

Some people come to Lourdes as tourists and others as pilgrims. The former want to stay a few hours, buy souvenirs and pass on to the next attraction. Pilgrims come to stay for reasons of faith. Even if they are only able to be there for a short while they want to pray and soak in the reality of God's love and mercy. They especially want to experience the presence and love of Mary for them at this special Shrine. At least that's what I wanted to do, and the leaders of my group the National Rosary Pilgrimage, gave me that opportunity. For one week I joined thousands of other pilgrims in the nightly candlelight processions, in the daily Eucharistic adoration, Mass, stations of the Cross. I loved hearing the rosary in a dozen different languages and meeting Catholics (and non-Catholics too) from all over the world. "This is what Catholicism is all

about." I thought, "People are here from all parts of the world with a million different stories, but all of us are brothers and sisters here in the house of Mary our Mother." I spent a whole week at the Shrine, praying, talking with other pilgrims, reading, and mostly just relaxing with Jesus and Mary and thousands of my brothers and sisters. It was a little taste of heaven and I didn't want to leave. However, as a fellow pilgrim once told me, "You can always go back in your heart by going to a quiet place in your heart and resting in prayer."

Thank you, Fr. George, for your wonderful testimony. God bless you and God bless all our readers.

Fr. Albert



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Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

We must bloom where we are planted

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



I was ordained a priest on February 6, 1960 at the National Shrine of the Immaculate

Conception in Washington, D.C. As I lay prostrate on the floor of the Sanctuary preceding the ceremony ordaining me to the priesthood, I whispered a silent prayer: "O Lord, use me to do your work here on earth. Don't put me on a shelf."

For 56 years, God has used me to "do His work here on earth." I have done my best to "bloom where I am planted." As I write, I find myself trying to bloom where I am planted. As a matter of fact, I find myself being called to bloom where I'm planted in a nursing home, recuperating from spinal surgery! How can I do this, you may ask. The answer is, by being who I am. A priest is, by definition, a man for others, someone who reaches out to people, to encourage them, to make their days



a little brighter, their cares a little lighter. Mother Teresa of Calcutta used to say, "No one knows the power of a smile."

The longer I experience living in a nursing home, the more the residents here inspire me. Most of them are elderly and have to deal with medical issues far greater than I'm dealing with. I am growing in compassion, as a result. Someone once said that laughter is the best medicine. When you make a person happy, you encourage him/her to forget their troubles and experience a few moments of joy. And when you listen to a person's troubles, you render a person a far greater service than you realize. The way of the world is to say, "Don't tell me your troubles. I have enough of my own." It's not the Christian way. Christ calls us to "bear one another's burdens," as difficult as that may be, at times.

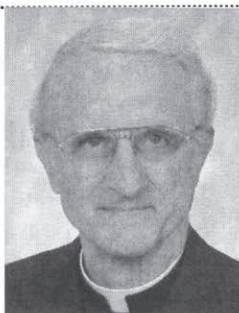
A priest who lives for himself is a living contradiction. His "family" is whoever needs him. When Jesus was told that his relatives, his "family," were waiting outside the place where He was, He re-

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THE SECOND LUMINOUS MYSTERY

The Manifestation of Jesus at Cana

John 2, 1-11



You surely heard this one: the wine ran short during the wedding feast of Cana because while Mary and Jesus were invited, the arrival of 12 apostles was unexpected.

Whatever the cause of the wine supply being depleted, a miracle took place. Mary presented the predicament to her Son Jesus with the plea: “They have no wine.” Jesus replied: “Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.” We have the spoken words of Jesus. What we do not have is the context of how they were spoken. Did Jesus have a twinkle in his eyes when saying these words? Did Mary reach out for his hand and cup it in hers while saying: “They have no wine”? The words of Jesus and Mary come down to us without gestures, without intonation in their voices. We have the words but not the facial expressions, the lyrics but not the music. Without these there is no wonder that for some people Jesus’ reply seems uncaring, if not cold.

What’s the Bottom Line?

What gives the dialogue between Mary and Jesus such a positive note is that Mary is expecting compliance to her request. If the

words of Jesus were an outright refusal why would Mary say to the servers: “Do whatever he tells you”? We have a saying when something is not clear: “What’s the bottom line?” The answer to that question depends on whether Mary’s request was answered or not. The answer must be a resounding “Yes!”

Jesus heeded Mary’s plea and changed water into wine. Her request was answered by a miracle. The problem of Jesus’ indifference or coldness toward his mother turns out not to be a problem. That’s the bottom line!

The Three Blessings at Cana

The First Blessing is mentioned above: the miracle of changing water into wine to save the newlyweds from being embarrassed and preventing the shortening of the weeklong celebration.

The Second Blessing comes at the very end of the story. The last line reads: “Jesus did this ... and so revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.” The miracles that followed Mary’s request thrust Jesus into the public eye. It was also the occasion for his disciples to “believe” in him. This public ministry of Jesus, along with his 12 disciples, was well on its way.

The Third Blessing was not lost

on the early Christians. They saw Mary as an intercessor. If she can act as “go between” the newly married couple and her son, in order to alleviate a wine shortage on a festive occasion, why can she not appeal to her Son in matters of a more serious nature, such as healing of the wounds of life, seeking employment, overcoming depression, conversion of a wayward member of the family, peace in the family, mending broken relationships, fortitude in the face of difficulties in living the Christian life.

Mary’s Mediation

What makes Mary so special a mediator far above the angels and saints is that she is mother of Jesus, Redeemer, both God and man. She cooperates in God’s plan of restoring the life of grace lost by Eve. This cooperation is made evident by Mary’s obedience to the divine plan as Eve was disobedient. Her great faith is made evident in her continued association with Jesus in his work of redemption. The life of grace lost by Adam’s disobedience is restored by the obedience of Jesus. If Eve is called “Mother of all the living” according to the flesh, then Mary merits being

Continued on next page

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.

THOMAS LAUBENTHAL	IA
HELENA LAUBENTHAL	IA
ETHELE WALKER	PA
ALICE MAYS	OH
JEROME VITALE	WI
EVARISTA E. RUEGEMER	MN
EILEEN KIRBY	CA
AGNES & HENRY LEWIS	PA
NANCY LEBWOHL	MA
THOMAS WEBER	IA
DELIA R. MALVESTI	MA
ROSE CALLAHAN	IL
PATRICIA RENAUD	VT
EDWARD DYBICZ	PA
MARTHA OEHLER	KY
SR. CLEOPHAS SCHUMACHER	OH
SR. ARLENE KNIOLA CSC	IN
SR. M. LUCIA	IN
SR. M. AMATA MILLER CSC	IN
SR. CARMELITA MORALES	IN
NINA SAUBERLICH	IL
PEGGY SCHULER	MO
JOSEPH LAMBERT	MA
MARIAN DELHOMMER	LA
DIX FETZER	PA
MARGARET REZAC	NE
MICHAEL ARNONE	PA
MARIE E. NILL	MO
ELEANOR CAMERON	MA
ALVIN M. PERRET	LA
CARL J. EBERTS SR.	LA
SALLY FOWLER	MS
CAROLINE & J. ROSS	NY
ETHEL ROSS	IN
MARGUERITE GAGNE	MA
JOSEPH EMMINGER	KY
LYDIA CANINI	NY
MARY & DAVE BOXLEY	CA
HARRY & ANN MELTZER	IL
HELEN RECZENSKI	NC
WILLIAM BREDECK	MN
BLANCHE BURNS	MA
DORIS MARTINA	ME
JOSE SANTANA	NE
MARILYN & RICHARD VYKYDAL	MI
MABEL SAVINO	WI
RALPH NICOLERA	WI
GERTRUDE ANDERSON	MN
PHYLLIS MASSA	MA
FREDA BLAHUT	IL
HELEN STRVZIK	IL
GRACE SAVARESE	LA
JULIE KONDRIK	PA
JOAN CULVER	MN
STELLA A. KUNO	PA

LOUISE ZINGER	OH
MARY A. JOHNS	OH
PATRICK KELLY	CA
MARY HERRERA	CO

Manifestation of Jesus at Cana

Mary's Mediation

Continued from previous page
called "Mother of all the Living" according to the life of grace. This restored life was won for us by the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus," ... The first born of many brothers" Romans 8, 29. We are the "many" brothers and sisters following Jesus the first born!

Mary's Maternal Mediation

Mary's mediation is maternal. She is not only mother of Jesus but our spiritual mother. For Mary is concerned that we (brothers and sisters) be conformed to her First Born. This concern of hers is maternal. She is the maternal face of God turned toward her family on earth. We invoke her as our maternal intercessor at the two most important moments of life when we say, "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death." Amen.

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

J.B.: Recently I was concerned because my right eye wasn't right. I felt like there was a film over it. That eye turns in a lot and I just wasn't seeing clearly. I prayed and asked the Lord to heal it. I really didn't want to go to the doctor. I could be there all the time. I asked the Lord "What should I do?" A few days later I opened a drawer and saw a bottle of Lourdes water. I also saw a very small dropper (which I didn't even know I had.) I rinsed the dropper off and felt led to put a few drops of Lourdes water in that eye. I prayed, put a few drops in, and sat back and closed my eyes for a few minutes. When I opened my eyes, my eyesight was so clear. I knew immediately the film was gone. I thanked the Lord so much for speaking to me and healing my eye. I haven't used it in my eye since, because it was an immediate healing. Thanks be to God forever more. **NV.**

T.M.B.: Thank you for your supply of Lourdes water received today. It is miraculous to me and keeps me going. I keep it for my family and friends who request it. One friend tries to offer payment and every time I tell him to send you a donation. Lourdes Water is a gift from the Blessed Mother. God bless you all, with love and prayers. God bless you all. **MA**

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

We must bear one another's burdens

Continued from page 3

plied, "Who is my family?" Pointing to the people who had gathered to hear Him, He said, "Behold my brothers and sisters. Whoever does the will of my Heavenly Father are brother and sister to Me, My family." In a real sense, a priest leaves his "family" when he decides to become a priest. People understand that and respect him for the sacrifice he makes in so doing.

But he must bloom where he is planted, i.e. wherever he is. Recently, I was asked to lead a couple in the renewal of marital vows on the occasion of their 70th Anniversary of Marriage. The man's wife is a resident of the nursing home here where I am, and the ceremony took place in a special room here, with many residents in attendance. It was a beautiful ceremony, for



most of those attending were in wheelchairs, including me! On two other occasions, I was asked to counsel a resident who needed a priest. A priest is like a doctor, a spiritual doctor, who responds to wherever he's needed.

The way of the world is to say, "Don't tell me your troubles. I have enough of my own." It's not the Christian way. Christ calls us to "bear one another's burdens," as difficult as that may be, at times.

A priest in a nursing home is still a priest. The Bible says that a priest is a priest forever. He represents not only the Church, but also Christ Himself, if he is what he should be. Pray for priests: we are becoming an "endangered species!"

Affiliations

**Remembrance in 50 Masses
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weekly Perpetual Novena**

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3 years \$5.00 Lifetime \$10.00

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of my faith...
my trust in God's
mercy.**

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we reserve the right to send
what is both just and feasible.

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(Please Print Clearly)

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Zip

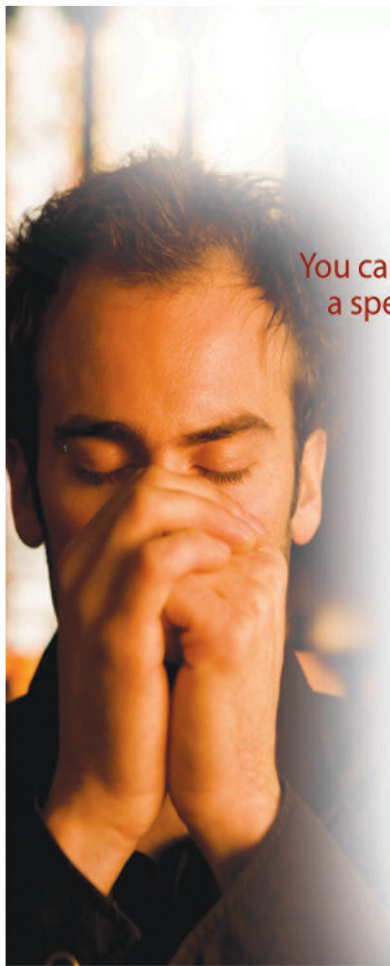
Does this person receive Lourdes Echoes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If not, should we send Lourdes Echoes to them?

☐ Yes ☐ No

PLEASE ALLOW 3-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



On Friday, September 9 & Friday, September 23
and Friday, October 14 & Friday, October 28,
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.

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