

# Lourdes Echoes

July-August 2017

Vol. 9 No. 1

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



PILGRIMS AT LOURDES

# THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,  
I received word recently that one of our faithful readers and supporters left a substantial bequest to the Lourdes Center. This lady was from Florida and I have no doubt that her generosity was inspired by Our Lady of Lourdes.

As I have said before, our ministry to provide Lourdes water, water from the Shrine of Lourdes was begun at the request of Archbishop Cushing of Boston and Bishop Theas of Lourdes. In 1950 these two bishops wanted to make it easy for Americans and Canadians to get Lourdes water. Archbishop Cushing knew the Marist Fathers very well. He knew we had foreign missions and knew we had been in this diocese since 1884. So he trusted us. Both bishops wanted to make sure that Lourdes water was not sold. It was not a commodity for sale.

But to get this ministry started someone had to put up the money needed to get the water shipped from France, the money needed to buy the bottles and boxes, and pick up the mailing costs. The Marist Fathers agreed to do that trusting that Mary would see to it that Catholics would support this ministry. And that's what happened. The donation we ask simply covers our costs for getting the water from France and then

mailing it to you.

Over the years we have received many bequests and all kinds of gifts both large and small. That is Mary at work.

Every so often someone calls us to say someone is selling Lourdes water on the internet. There is nothing we can do about that. The internet can be the Wild Wild West. We can and have intervened if anyone uses a picture of our bottle and gives the impression that they are acting in our name. Our website is [www.lourdescenter.org](http://www.lourdescenter.org). You can order water on the internet with any credit card that PAYPAL accepts. That website is our one and only valid website. Many of you use it.

You know anyone can go on the internet and say they have Lourdes water available. For all you know it could be tap water from the town of Lourdes. The Lourdes water we deal with is water that comes directly from the springs at the Lourdes Shrine. During one of the apparitions to Bernadette Our Lady asked Bernadette to scratch the ground where she was kneeling. Bernadette did that and water sprung forth. Our Lady told Bernadette to wash her face with it.

People from the town heard about the water. One Lady with a very sick

infant bathed the child in the water and the child was cured. Thus began the miracles associated with the spring water at the Lourdes shrine.

What we do here is a spiritual ministry. We have received thousands of letters attesting to the power and love of Mary through the use of Lourdes water and prayer.

Our mission is to take the special gift that Mary gave to Bernadette and to the shrine of Lourdes and to make that special gift available to you. From the beginning we knew that Mary would support this ministry by touching the generous hearts of you her sons and daughters. God Bless You!

*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)**

# Saying goodbye is hard to do



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.

Not long ago, I suffered a heart attack which led me to curtail my activities. One of the activities I decided to let go of was contributing articles to “Echoes” on a regular basis. I did so very reluctantly because I loved sharing my values and Christian attitudes with my readers. Not only that, but doing so led to a wonderful correspondence with my readers, a correspondence which I still carry on to this day, albeit to a diminished degree.

The Bible states that there is a time for everything, a time to hang on and a time to let go. As Christians, we also believe that God doesn’t need us, but deigns to accept us as partners to establish His Kingdom here on earth. No one is indispensable. The world will continue long after we are gone.

With this being said, I want to thank all the wonderful readers of “Echoes” who have inspired me by sharing their lives with me for the past 12 years. I have grown in sympathy and compassion as a result. I have learned that Catholicism here in America, as well as devotion to

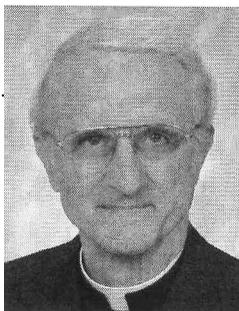
“No one lives alone.  
We all influence one  
another for good  
or for bad.

That’s why it’s important  
to surround ourselves  
with good people.”

Our Blessed Mother (an integral and important part of being a Catholic) is alive and well in our country. Every night I pray that it may always be so. I have also learned that no matter what life throws at us, as regards problems of any kind, Our Blessed Mother is always ready to help us. That’s why I recommend to each and every one, as well as try to live, the words of the prayer called “The Memorare.” There is an old saying that says “We go to school every day.” There is also a saying that cautions us all – “The person who hasn’t changed, in the past 30 years of his/her life, has wasted the last 30 years of his/her life.”

So, I like to think my articles have, in some small way, helped to change your lives for the better, just as your sharing your lives with me has helped to change my life for the better. No one lives alone. We all influence one another for good or for bad. That’s why it’s very important to surround ourselves with good people. They make us better persons, just as we, hopefully, make them better persons.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for your support of the Lourdes Center. We are a non-profit organization dedicated to making Our Lady of Lourdes better known and more greatly loved. In 1858, she intervened in our world to remind us that there is more to human existence than what we can see, hear, and touch, and that there is another world that exists and that awaits us after we die and that can help us even now to be happy and holy. May we never give up our Catholic faith and our devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus. And may Our Blessed Mother help you, all the days of your life.



## *Meeting the Challenge with God's Help*

Judges 6, 11-16

There is an interesting story in the bible about Gideon, a farmer turned general. The start of the story is not without humor. Just prior to the visit of an angel, Gideon is doing a common enough chore of a typical farmer. He is sifting wheat from its husk. This task is done ordinarily in the open field so that the breeze carries off the sundried chaff tossed into the air while the golden-brown wheat falls back into the wide waiting open basket. But where do we find our “champion” doing this task? He is within a stonewall enclosure of a winepress. But grapes are pressed into wine! So, we may ask, why is he “there” sifting wheat? Our “champion” is hiding! He is in fear of the Midianites. These are the sworn enemies of the Israelites – marauding bands who attack by plunder or set crops on fire preventing the Israelites from harvesting the rewards of their labor. Suddenly an angel appears. It is he who greets Gideon with the title, “O Champion!” The full salutation is, “The Lord is with you, O

Champion.” (A bit of satiric humor here?) But more to the point: Grace is anticipated that will change ineptitude to aptitude.

### **Go with the strength you have...**

Gideon objects to the angel's greeting since the Midianites are on the loose showing once more their ferociousness by destroying the hard-earned fruits of the Israelites. The angel insists that Gideon free the land from the enemy and says, “Go with the strength you have...and I shall be with you.” (It is the Lord Himself and not the angel who has been speaking to him!)

### **Lesson for the Mass**

The Lord's words to Gideon will help add to understand the mystery of the Mass. Basic to the understanding of the Sacrifice of the Mass is that it commemorates two dramatic events in the history of man's salvation: Jesus' passion and death on Good Friday, and his rising from the dead on Easter Sunday. In the words of St. Paul, “He died for our sins and

rose for our justification.” (Romans 4, 25)

### **What it Means to Survive**

What I find striking in this tragic account is that he did not return to a life before addiction, but got his life back and then some – despite his paralysis. He was exhilarated and full of optimism. He has prevailed or, as we would say today, he is a survivor. Those who survive, who prevail, have wounds to show as a result of their misfortune, but a better human being all the same.

### **Making up for our Deficiencies**

We find ourselves at Mass with the inadequacy of a child who is asked to take on an insurmountable task. How are we to respond to the mystery of the Mass, this dying and rising of Christ for us and our salvation? Nonetheless we feel the tug to give a response. The rendering of Christ present at Mass in word and sacrament wrests from us praise and thanksgiving. We praise and thank the Heavenly Father for the

*Continued on page 5*

# Fr. Grispino

*Continued from page 4*

great labor of love accomplished by his son for our redemption. We sense need to thank him for sins forgiven; the restored friendship; the promise of eternal union already anticipated in Holy Communion. While we do what is humanly possible to render divine worship, all falls short to match the infinite dignity of the One offended. Hence the deficiency. More is needed.

### “The Lord be with You”

The celebrant reminds us throughout the Mass of the “more” that is needed by his repeated greeting, “The Lord be with you.” It is the same greeting used by the angel when Gideon was assigned a task for which he felt inadequate. The greet-

ing by the priest is reminding us of our bonding with Christ made one with him in baptism. United with the One Mediator, the One, only true Worshiper of the Father the gap between the sinner and the dignity of the One Offended is closed. The inadequacy of meeting the obligation to worship “in Spirit and truth” is met. (John 4, 24)

### “Go with the strength you have...”

The words of the Mass, “The Lord be with you” in the context of the words spoken to Gideon “... go with the strength you have” sheds added light on our enhanced role in the divine liturgy. It is also an encouragement to strengthen us to meet life’s challenges: “The Lord be with you.” ■

## 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



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.

# 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.

# 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.*

MARY ELIZABETH BRUSSO, NY  
 MICHAEL GALASYN, SR., FL  
 GEORGE & FRANCIS GUNTER, MO  
 JOHN J. BEAVEN, MO  
 MICHAEL J. TAKAS, CA  
 CHARLES J. SCHIRMANN, OH  
 PATRICK BEGNAUD, LA  
 MARTHA NOVAK, PA  
 GERARD J. LEVESQUE, PA  
 ELDORA AGENA, NH  
 JOHN G. DANNER, JR., LA  
 BEATRICE TEMPLEMON, MD  
 EDWARD BUCK, OH  
 GERMAINE BENANTI, CT  
 THERESA PELLOICCIARO, NY  
 KAY BELLIA, PA  
 LEILANI EARLS, MD  
 RITA D'ANNA, NC  
 ARTHUR WIELGUS, WI  
 SR. JANE KEENAN, PA  
 DENIS D. NOLAN, MN  
 JAMES G. CARREYN, MI  
 HELEN WOJDON, PA  
 EDDIE MILLER, MI  
 MARY BARCZEWSKI, IL  
 DORIS LEARY, NY  
 GRACE BEAUDETTE, MA  
 JOAN TURSI, NJ  
 CAROL PINKERTON, OR  
 NORMAN L'HEUREUX, ME  
 CAROL FRECK, MI  
 WILLIAM FORTHMAN, MO  
 MARCELLA MILLER, MN  
 FRANCES EILEEN VEZINA, MI  
 FELIX ARAMBULA, TX  
 MIKE RICHARD, TX  
 EDWARD PASZKIEWICZ, IL  
 CUSHMAN K. PINAO, HI  
 CORBETT DUHON, SR., LA  
 MARY A. FLYNN, PA  
 FRED BROADHACKER, MO  
 HELEN BROWER, MI  
 CLARA HILL, MI  
 ESTHER WACKER, MO  
 SUZETTE CANONIZADO, OR  
 ELEANOR DIVENTURA, PA

STEPHANIE DAYTON, PA  
 DORIS BURNS, MS  
 JOSEPH SMITH, MD  
 LILLIAM CANTON, CA  
 LORETA S. FERBES FELIX, GA  
 ALICE TOBENS, TN  
 BEVERLY SINCLAIR, MT  
 DOROTHY DE NOVA, NY  
 KATHLEEN CORSON, WY  
 HOWARD WARREN KRAUSS, VA  
 PAT KNOP, MI  
 RITA SACK, PA  
 ROBERT L. SPANG, NJ  
 RUTH GULLAGE, MA  
 JOHN M. KENNEY, MA  
 AGNES PRINCIPE, PA  
 BERNICE LESNIAK, IL  
 SR. GRACIS SCHMITT, IA  
 CHERYL SVGITA, HI  
 ANN G. ALBRECHT, MA  
 MAURO BACOLO, NJ  
 EUGENE SCHOENBAUER, MN  
 EDITH FERRETTI, PA  
 ARLINE RHEAUME, MA  
 MARGARET H LUCAS, CT  
 GREGORY M. TAKACS, CA  
 JOE & GLADYS OPPOLD, IA  
 SR. RITA ST. ONGE, CT  
 LUCILLE NEWTON, WI

KAREN RODRIGUES, RI  
 NICHOLAS & MARY DOFFING, KS  
 MARGARET WYDERKA, WI  
 ESTHER BALTIERRA, TX  
 CLARA GAYLIN LARSON, SD  
 HELEN E. MOLIHAN, MA  
 CECILIA GROLEAU, WI  
 BEATRICE A. PICHE, MI  
 RITA WILLIAMS, NC  
 SR. RENE FISCHER, D.C., IN  
 MARY M. SCHAFER, OH  
 HELEN NEWBERG, MN  
 GEORGE KRISKO, OH  
 LINDA ARENEAUX, LA  
 PENNY D. STIMLEY, IN  
 LOVELY MOSES, HI  
 ALICE D. DAVID, LA  
 CONCHA SANCHEZ, TX  
 MARIA HEREDIA, MA  
 RAYMOND HUBER, IL  
 FRED BROADHACKER, MO  
 MARGARET THORNTON, WI  
 MARY SEVEC, AZ  
 DOROTHY MEIER, MN  
 DOLORES C. HENLEY, LA  
 AQUILINO BRAVO, CA  
 DANIEL J. DALY, MA  
 WILLIE B. THAIS, NM  
 FRANK PURZYCKI, 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.*

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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

## Readers Write

**D.D.** A number of years ago I read an article about letters. In it the author spoke of how uplifting it is to arrive home at the end of a day and find “an honest to goodness letter – that is hand written” when the most that people usually get are bills and ads and catalogues. And...if the day has been especially difficult it (the letter) can revive the spirit. How true! So your little note and the prayer that you composed and sent served as a little “pick me up.” I have tried to keep alive in myself that idea of letter writing. It seems to give me as much pleasure as I always hope that it enkin-

dles in the recipient. Such little things seem to have suffered a terrible blow in our tech society. And the greatest technology in the world will never be able to replace the simple human touch. God bless! **NJ**

**B.L.** When I had a physical and x-rays before my knee replacement surgery, they found a mass on my lung. When I went to the doctor, he checked the PET scan and told me to come back in four months after another CT scan. I promised I would send a check for \$25.00 and also drink Lourdes water. The second CT scan showed that it is better and I don't have to go back for 6 months. Praise and thank God and Jesus. **PA**

**B.M.K.** Thanks be to God to be able to send you an offering of fifty dollars towards your new boiler in memory of the anniversary of your 50th year! You good people are my life on earth because I will be 87 years on February 11th next year, and your Echo magazine is a joy and pleasure to read. I always look forward to all the interesting items. God's will be done. I am in a wheelchair in a Catholic nursing home. I faithfully use the Lourdes water on myself every night and as you might know, have faith and confidence in Our Lady of Lourdes to help me. Please tell all at the Lourdes Center to keep up the good work as you make a young lady of 87 very happy. **MA**

## 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 offering 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 \_\_\_\_\_

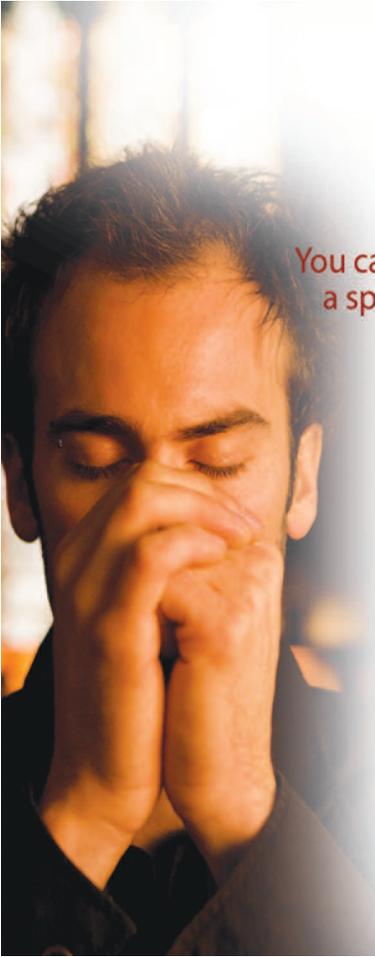
Does this person receive Lourdes Echoes?

Yes  No

If not, should we send Lourdes Echoes to them?

Yes  No

PLEASE ALLOW 3-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



On Friday, July 14 & Friday, July 28  
and Friday, August 11 & 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: \_\_\_\_\_  
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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.

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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**Marist Fathers**  
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www.lourdescenter.org  
OurLady@LourdesCenter.org

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Requested*