

echoes

FROM LOURDES

March-April, 2018
Vol. 9 No. 4

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS

The Fourth Station of The Cross

*Jesus meets
His Mother
on the Way ...*





FR. GEORGE SZAL, S.M.

Traveling a Pilgrimage of Faith

In this issue of the “Echoes” we are announcing the 64th annual pilgrimage to Lourdes, July 2 to 11, 2018. I hope that some of you will consider joining it. The deadline for application is March 30. This annual event and the season of Lent in which we now find ourselves causes me to reflect on the meaning of pilgrimages.

Once on a flight to give a mission I got into conversation with a college student sitting next to me. Eventually I asked him if he knew the meaning of his life. He said that he was going to finish his education, settle down, get a job, probably marry his girlfriend and have some children. “But why?” I asked, “All of your goals are wonderful, but if you achieve them and come to the end of your life, where will you be and who will you have become?” He didn’t know. I told him that no one’s life is an accident, God loved him and wanted him to live forever in Eternal joy with all of his loved ones. We spoke about these things for a long time and finally I said, “You need to ‘walk’ in a community of faith where this will be announced to you and celebrated every week.”

I said this because the Bible



describes being a Christian as a community in motion towards a goal (Acts 18:25, 26.; 19:9, 23) We ‘walk’ in a Church that gives us faith, community, sacraments and the encouragement to continue our journey to God. It is a pilgrimage to heaven, a journey to Eternal Life in a resurrected community of saints living in deep intimacy and joy with God.

As on any trip, a pilgrimage is bound to include some discomfort. As we travel the journey of faith we can be certain that it will involve some suffering – physical, mental and spiritual. Some suffering will come from sin, but why earthquakes, floods, cancer, birth defects, etc.? We often wonder, “If God loves us so much, why does He allow so much suffering in the world?”. I think that one reason is so that we can exercise our free will. As the blind priest, Fr. Robert Spitzer has written, “If we did

not have the possibility of choosing unloving and evil behaviors, we would have only one option – loving behaviors....We would be reduced to the status of robots, and our love would not be our own, but the property of the divine programmer.” (*Finding True Happiness*, Ignatius Press, 2015, p. 25). We are made in the image and likeness of God, and to be like God means to learn to love as God loves. Being on a pilgrimage to Lourdes, or walking through Lent to Easter, or simply the difficult journey of trying to live a Christian life in a broken world gives us plenty of opportunities to carry the Cross, to choose love rather than selfishness, and to get ready for life in heaven.

Thank you for supporting our pilgrimage of faith here at the Lourdes Center. Since we make no profit from the sending of Lourdes Water we have existed for over 50 years on the grace of God, the prayers of the Mother of God and your generosity. If you can remember us with a Lenten donation we would greatly appreciate your generosity.

Peace,

Fr. George

Haunting Words

By Fr. Francis A. Grispino, S.M.

(A Lenten Read)

The conversation had been a long one. All I can remember were the words, “When you get close to Jesus he crucifies you!” I never heard a heartache or a misfortune put exactly that way. That woman was on to something. It needs to be addressed. But first it will be helpful to mention a saying.

We often hear it said, “I got to do what I’ve got to do.” The usual meaning is that the person has got to meet a problem straight on and that there is no ducking the issue. Only responsible persons utter such a statement. And now the woman’s unusual expression needs unpacking. But it is with some misgiving for fear that sensitive feelings may be hurt, so keep in mind that if humans resolve to meet their obligations so does God.

God’s Justice

Those who know the workings of God better than most inform us that while God is merciful he is also just. And because God is just he must, per force, “Do what he’s got to do.”

Our holy faith teaches us that God forgives us our sins because of the great redemptive act of loving obedience of Jesus’ suffering and death on the cross. By such an atonement for us and our salvation man’s guilt that cries out for eternal punishment is forgiven. That’s right! Short of the Redeemer’s suffering and death we were all hell-bound. But are we then absolved from what is called temporal punishment due to sin, punishment needing to be faced in this world?

Punishment for Sin Remains

The penance given in the confessional is only a partial remittance of the punishment that needs to be satisfied in this world. So, what must be done to make up for this residual punishment?

Kinds of Penance?

Our Blessed Mother gave the answer to St. Bernadette. Upon Mary’s request that penance be performed for sins, the saint asked what kind of penance. The reply was to accept the inconveniences, difficulties, and trials that occur during the living out of each day. This is covered by the old expression – not often heard now-a-days, “Offer it up.”

Other terms used to express penance or satisfaction due to sin are: prayer, acts of self-denial or sacrifices, monetary offerings or almsgiving, fasting, abstinence and to bear one’s crosses patiently, especially those inherent in the fulfillment of one’s duties in life.

St. Paul on Trials in Life / Paraphrased

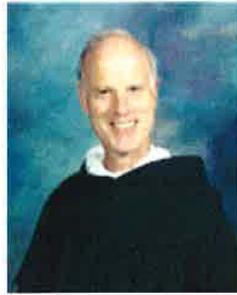
Hebrews 12, 7-15

Endure your trails as discipline. We submit to our earthly father to discipline us, should we not all the more submit to our Heavenly Father? They discipline us for a short time, but Our Father does so for our benefit to share his holiness. Strive for holiness, without which, no one will see God.

The Dynamics of Penance

But how is the justice of God satisfied by such acts? A simple explanation is: the “No” to God in the act of sin is reversed by the “Yes” to God in doing voluntary penance. Viewed another way we can say: sin gives in to human nature; penance goes against human nature and restores the balance. Finally, sin is pleasing; penance is displeasing. Temporal punishment due to sin is thereby regarded by God as atonement.

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Fr. Joseph Allen, O.P.

64th U.S. National Rosary Pilgrimage

Lourdes, France

JULY 02 TO JULY 11, 2018

(Also visiting St. Jean de Luz & Gavarnie)

Welcoming individuals, families, parish groups

Accompanied by clergy, medical staff & volunteers to assist the needs of the pilgrims.



Fr. John Beckley, S.M.



Fr. Michael Mary Dosch, O.P.



Fr. George Schommer, O.P.

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International air transportation • Including airline fuel surcharges • Hotel Accommodations • All meals: breakfast • lunch and dinner • Guided tour of Lourdes • Guided visit to Gavarnie • Transfers and baggage handling • Tips for hotel dining and guides • Sanctuary registration fee • Scheduled liturgical services

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WEBSITE: www.Lourdes-pilgrimage.com

TO INSURE A PLACE ON THIS PILGRIMAGE PLEASE BOOK EARLY!!!

RESERVATION DEADLINE MARCH 30, 2018

For complete details: www.Lourdes-pilgrimage.com

Readers Write (about Pilgrimage blessings)

Have you heard yet about the 70th certified cure at Lourdes? (We had not). Sr. Bernadette Moriau had 4 operations on her spine in the late sixties which did her no good. Deemed incurable, she remained nailed to a wheelchair with a permanently twisted foot. Sr. Bernadette lived in constant pain for 28 years until she made a pilgrimage to Lourdes not expecting a miracle. She attended the blessing of the sick and went back home. During prayer in her convent's chapel she began to feel a strange warmth throughout her body and heard a voice saying "take off your brace". She did just that, got up and walked. She got rid of her wheelchair, braces and pain killers and was able to walk unaided for the first time in many years. In fact, in a couple of days she took a three mile hike! The bishop of Lourdes, Most Reverend Nicholas Brouwet declared that Sr. Bernadette's healing was miraculous, achieved without any medical intervention. [Note: *There have been thousands of healings at Lourdes and through the use of Lourdes Water, but only those whose incurable illness is thoroughly investigated by an international team of doctors over a period of years can be officially declared "miraculous".*] -- AN

Not all of the healings at Lourdes are from diseases of the body as the following reports from the International Medical Association of Lourdes, (No. 276, Oct. 2001) attests:

FAITH RESTORED

Honore Etienne de Monteley was born into the French nobility in 1928. He was a very lukewarm Catholic and only attended Mass out of a feeling of duty and from social pressure. To please his mother he accompanied her on a trip to Lourdes. Twice a day and out of a sense of duty he helped transport the sick by stretcher and wheelchair around the Shrine and to the baths. At first he was disgusted by their pitiful and diseased state and could hardly wait to get back to his hotel for dinner and a rest. His conversion occurred when a woman with incurable cancer, whom he was transporting, was cured. He began to understand the meaning of the pilgrimage, in which people put themselves into the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Honore said that at the prayers that were said at the Shrine, "I felt myself carried away – not by a false emotion of the moment but by an enduring sentiment, a sense of God's taking charge of me." At that moment the 28 year old man began to become an adult. He gave up his life of parties, entertainments and selfish pur-

suits and began to practice his faith in earnest. When the Germans invaded France during World War II Honore became the leader of a resistance group. He was captured, imprisoned, tortured and finally put to death for opposing the occupation of France. He endured it all with great humility and peace.

A HOLY DEATH

Thierry V. was a former military parachutist, sportsman and successful executive. He was 41 years old in 1999, and although he appeared to be in good health, a malignant cancerous growth was discovered on his left leg. In spite of surgery and chemotherapy at some of the best cancer medical centers, the cancer spread and Thierry decided to stop all therapy and asked to go to Lourdes. Because the pilgrimage had to begin immediately there were many problems preventing it. However, these were smoothed out. The doctors and nurse who received him were amazed by his confidence and open-heartedness. He seemed to everyone to be relaxed and peaceful. Whenever he was in the Grotto he never took his eyes off of the statue of Mary. "He seemed to be in direct contact with Our Lady." The nurse who accompanied him said that after

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Haunting Words

A Lenten Read

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God's Cross, Man's Splinter

Our kinds of penance are mere splinters when compared to the cross of Jesus that achieved infinite payback for sin. Nevertheless, the little that man can do is not excluded when united to the sufferings of the Son of God. St. Paul urges us, "...if only we suffer with him so that we may be glorified with him." Romans 8, 17.

God's Backup Plan

If satisfaction for sins forgiven

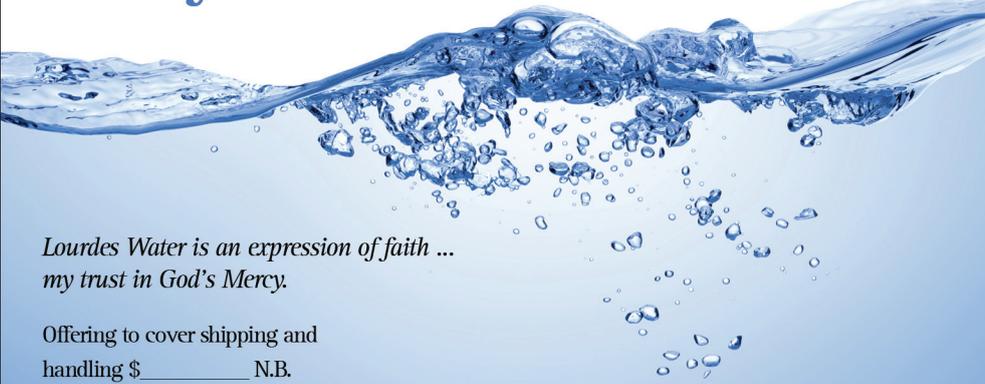
We must
let God
do
what He
must do.

is not atoned before death, purgatory is how God remedies the defects and disorder brought on by sin. God's justice and mercy is ever present and active even beyond this world where a purification by suffering takes place as a prerequisite for entrance into heaven where, "nothing unclean will enter" Revelation 21, 27. And so it is that the soul is rendered fit for heavenly glory - thanks to God's backup plan.

Conclusion

A life lived with faith and confidence in the Lord will have its transformative effects provided of course that we let God do what he has got to do even if it is expressed in words such as, "When you get close to Jesus he crucifies you."

Order your Lourdes Water



Lourdes Water is an expression of faith ... my trust in God's Mercy.

Offering to cover shipping and handling \$ _____ N.B.
A donation of \$3.00 per bottle is suggested to cover our expenses. We 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 allow 3-6 weeks for delivery

Please send _____ bottles of water from the Shrine at Lourdes

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____

Requested by: _____

Does this person receive this newsletter? Yes No
If not, should we send Echoes from Lourdes to them?
 Yes No

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**Give someone you care about a
FREE SUBSCRIPTION to Echoes
from Lourdes!**

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
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Name _____
Address _____
City _____
State _____ Zip _____

USE SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

E-mail to: ourlady@lourdescenter.org
Postal mail to:
LOURDES 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.

ROSE A. KANRILAK, AK
 TERRY SACKETTE, PA
 DENNIS FELTON, FL
 FRANCIS CADY, MA
 HUBERT J. EVANS, LA
 ELENITA P. MORELOS, NH
 CHARLES CATTANECH, JR., GA
 MARGARET SCHAAD, OH
 MARY SHIBLEY, NY
 FRAN CERNARO, NY
 BETTY J. VAN DRUNEN, WI
 SR. THERES DUGRE, PA
 CHRISTINE SKRZPEK, IL
 JOHN MILLER, LA
 MARGARET ALLSHOUSE, TX
 BEN MANN, KY
 JOHN KILLEEN, MA
 JULIA KILLEEN, MA
 JOHN KILLEEN FAMILY, MA
 STEPHEN DI NAPOLI, GA

EDNA MCDONNELL, MA
 HARRY MCDONNELL, MA
 ROBERT MCDONALD, MA
 MARGARET L. STUDDS, FL
 MARY STRONGHEART, AK
 MRS. WILLIAM GILL, NV
 ROSALIE SMITH, MI
 ELIZABETH COOK, MI
 ROSE HEIDER, OH
 PATRICIA SCAPERDINE, IL
 ANN PALKA, OH
 ARTHUR GODFREY, MA
 DOLORES KREBSBACH, NY
 ROBERT V. BASHAW, NY
 PAUL MAZAK, PA
 SR. MURIEL STARK, WI
 THOMAS RILEY, OK
 EDNA O'BRIEN, NY
 M. DEUTSCHMAN, NJ
 MARY PLATURKIS, PA
 ANNE BRKICH, CANADA
 IRENE L. KINGSWOOD, MA
 SARAH J. PETERS, MA
 MARCELLE NADEAU, ME
 EILEEN A. LEWIS, RI
 MICHAEL A. MINECCI, PA
 NORMA MORRIS, IN
 ANNA M. ROWLAND, RI
 ANNE E. HAEFNER, PA
 ALEXANDRINA FONSECA, NY

A Holy Death

Continued from Page 5
 every visit to the Grotto he would say, "May your will be done," and he was always very sensitive to the suffering of the others around him. Theirry returned home to his wife and three small children and said, "I am happy to know that I will die at 41 knowing Jesus, than at 81 without any faith!"

Spiritual Opportunities

Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name of Deceased _____
 Please send Purgatorial to:
 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.

Please mail responses to: Marist Fathers, 698 Beacon St. P.O. Box 15575, Boston, MA 02215-0010

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IN GROTTTO
- 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".....\$4.00
BY FR. JOHN LYNCH, S.M.

Please send your order with payment to:
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Requested by: _____

Phone Number: _____

Offering: 1 year \$2.00
 3 years, \$5.00, Lifetime, \$10.00

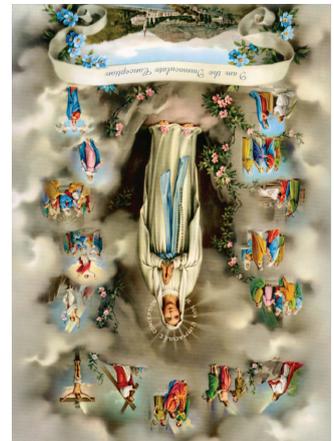
Name _____
 Address _____
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 State _____ Zip _____

**On Friday, March 9 and Friday, March 23
and Friday, April 13 and Friday, April 27,
The Marist Fathers and 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



Lourdes Echoes

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