

# echoes

FROM LOURDES

January-February, 2019  
Vol. 10 No. 1

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS

*Interior of the house where Bernadette Soubirous lived in Lourdes. Today, the home is a museum.*

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## THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

FR. GEORGE SZAL, S.M.

### *The Marian Option*

When I was a child my *Dziadzia* (Polish for “grandpa”) told me a story about Mary’s protection that profoundly affected my faith in Jesus and love for Mary. In 1655 Sweden had invaded Poland and had almost taken over the whole country. They were stopped at the monastery of Jasna Gora (“Bright Mountain”) which had enshrined in it the icon of the Black Madonna, (“Our Lady of Czestochowa”). Through her intercession 70 monks and 180 soldiers held off 4,000 German mercenaries for 6 weeks and turned the tide of the battle. Shortly thereafter the Swedes were driven out of Poland entirely. It was considered a miracle and shortly thereafter King Jan Kazimierz Waza declared Mary “Queen of Poland.”

However, that story was not the only sign of Mary’s influence in my life. In every bedroom, in the living room and kitchen there were icons or statues of Mary. When I wanted to go to communion with my parents but was not old enough, my mother taught me the rosary instead – a prayer both of my parents recited daily. We were members of Our Lady Queen



Church of Our Lady of Czestochowa  
Jasna Gora, Poland

of Heaven Parish and school and attended the weekly Tuesday night devotions to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Our elementary school had May processions every year and we children were taught to say one Hail Mary every night

for a holy vocation. During my high school’s senior retreat the director, a Passionist priest, asked me if I wanted to join his order. I answered that I had already decided to join the Society of Mary. What else?

In all of this time and afterwards I often turned to Mary whenever I faced a difficult situation. For example, when I was a hospital chaplain and was afraid of visiting seriously ill or dying patients I would imagine Mary and the saints going into the room to pray together with me. I said to myself, “This is Mary’s house, and I am just helping her out.” So, sometimes I would even sing the “Salve Regina” or some other Marian song in the stairwells – just to give myself courage. I did the same thing when I was a prison chaplain, parish priest, retreat director, etc., and it always helped. Sometimes people caught me at it, but they never complained. I think that it may have given them confidence as well.

Our world is full of wonders, but full of problems too. We can put a man on the moon but can-

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## The Marian Option

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not stop wars or prevent murder in our schools. Through the marvels of medicine and surgery we can heal terrible diseases and extend our life spans, but kill millions of innocent children in their mothers' wombs every year and recommend suicide for those we cannot heal. What can we little, powerless people do to help a world that seems so sick, wounded and confused? At Lourdes the Blessed Virgin Mary gave the answer to a humble little poor girl named Bernadette. She asked for prayer; that is for humble recognition that we with only our own power and intelligence cannot create a civilization of love. She asked for a shrine to be built where people could gather together and form a community with one mind and heart. She wanted people to come in procession, making a sign in this world of violence and greed that there is another reality, heaven. As she told Bernadette, "I do not promise you happiness in this world, but in the next."

Finally, Mary asked for penance and prayer for sinners. Why? Because, if we knock down all the unjust structures in the world without changing the hearts of those who build and inhabit those structures, they will just rebuild the same unjust structures – and worse. By penance I understand a change of heart. The conversion of the world begins with me. It means turning my heart towards God and others. It means taking away the sins of the world by taking the sins of others on myself, as Jesus did and as Mary did in the Upper Room waiting with the Apostles for Pentecost. They had betrayed, abandoned and

denied her Son, but Mary prayed with them and comforted them and helped to heal their hearts wounded by sin. At Lourdes and in many other apparitions this was Mary's solution to our personal problems and the healing of our beautiful wounded world. So, let's go frequently to Mass and confession. Let's pray the rosary and offer our sufferings for the conversion of sinners and the perseverance of the just. Consider making a pilgrimage to Lourdes, Czestochowa or some shrine near you. It can only help. If you are unable to travel, then make a pilgrimage through the Gospels by praying with attention to all 20 mysteries of the rosary. Our Lady asked for this above all.

May you have a blessed New Year and Paradise at the end of your days!

Peace,

*Fr. George*

*P.S. Winters in New England are usually pretty rough and our Center is large. Please help us with our heating bill by sending a donation in the envelope included with this copy of the Echoes. Thank you!*



Our Lady told Bernadette: "I do not promise you happiness in this world, but in the next."



## MARIST GUIDANCE

# Those Who Pray: Beware!

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, S.M.

There is something you need to know and watch out for. Pray-ers addressed in this read include either the rosary pray-er or the bible pray-er or both.

### **Rosary Pray-er**

This pray-er must have some understanding of the mystery chosen. Moreover, some part of the scene should trigger acts of the will such as: adoration (praise), contrition, thanksgiving, supplication (petition), faith, hope and charity. The very mystery reflected on will bring to birth acts of the will appropriate to the thoughts in the mind. Remember no act of the will - no prayer. To reflect on the cruelty of the Roman soldiers at the crucifixion thinking only of the torturous agony of Jesus and what expert assassins they were - there is no prayer! On the other hand, to respond to such cruelty with, "Jesus, I am sorry for my sins that caused such a horrendous death!" is to make the difference between the demonstration of how capital punishment

was done in those days and a prayer of contrition for sins.

### **Beware!**

It may happen while praying the rosary that you find yourself trailing off into a state of rest and tranquility. What is going on? It may very well be that God has heard you. Now you need to hear Him. It is His calling card. Simply follow the impulse to "rest" in the divine presence. Do so until prompted to continue praying as before. What you experienced was perhaps not the first time. What about that time you remained in your pew after Mass while the others exited? Was it the experience of a deep tranquility, a loving attentiveness, a peace that caused you to stay behind? If so, that was God's doing not yours!

### **Be Aware**

Now that I have gotten your attention this far, you can change the word in the title from, Beware! To: Be Aware. Be advised that you are not being distracted away from prayer. You are ex-

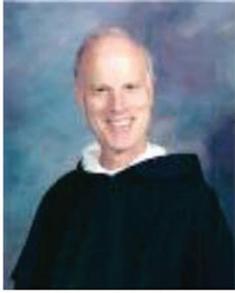


periencing prayer of a different kind. It is to your advantage to move from the customary form wherein you are acting to allow God to act. To put it in more exact terms: allow yourself to go from reflective prayer (head work) to acts of the will (heart work) to passive prayer (God's work). Such a prayer is called "contemplative". At least the beginning of it.

### **The Bible Pray-er**

What usually occurs in this kind of prayer is that while reading a passage from the scriptures slowly and attentively a word or thought grabs you. (Not unlike the cartoon where a bulb lights up over the head of a character.) As an example, let us say you are reading the story of the cure of the ten lepers in Luke 17, 11-17. Only one of the ten returns to give thanks to Jesus. This thought startlingly gets your attention: I can't remember the last time I have ever given thanks to God for anything! That thought was meant for you and you

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Fr. Joseph Allen, O.P.

## 65th U.S. National Rosary Pilgrimage

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

**RESERVATION DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2019**

# Those Who Pray: Beware!

*Continued from Page 4*

alone. In fact, it had your name on it! Let your heartfelt response pour itself out to make up for the past neglect. This should prompt you to make acts of the will as mentioned above under: Rosary Pray-er.

## Be Aware

Like the rosary pray-er you may find yourself maxed out from that form of prayer involving reflection and acts of the will and only to pleasantly experience quiet time of repose and tranquility. You find yourself without words or thoughts. Be

aware that you are in a different kind of prayer. This is precious time, not a waste of time! Your situation is well described in Psalm 46, 11: "Be still and know that I am God." What is said of the rosary pray-er in the above section, "Be Aware" is applicable to the scripture pray-er as well.

## Conclusion

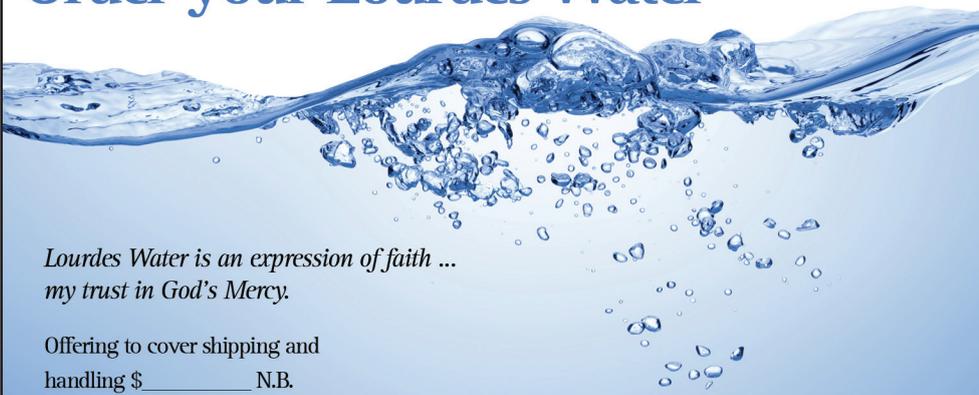
The dynamics that are played out in a marital love relationship are close to those in our relationship with the Lord. Once the relationship has peaked to that of love, words are no longer needed. What matters is simply

being in each other's presence. Be aware then, that contemplative prayer is not easily detected. Contemplation is initially having a foothold at the base of a mountain that yet needs to be scaled. But as scripture poetically states: with God's help, I can scale any mountain (See Habakkuk 3, 19).



*Pilgrims burn candles in prayer at Lourdes.*

## 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. 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.

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 City \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

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 If not, should we send Echoes from Lourdes to them?  
 Yes  No

*Please allow 3-6 weeks for delivery*

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USE SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY  
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*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.*

THERESA PETITE, AL  
 CATHERINE CAISSIE, AZ  
 MICHIELS, WILSON, DUKE AND NIXON FAMILIES, TX  
 LAURA GROOS, SD  
 DORIS GREGOIRE, NH  
 IRENE CHRISTOPHERSON, FL  
 WALTER KURUSKO, FL  
 GLENN TRYHUK, WI  
 SR. JANAAN HICKIE, O.S.F., IA  
 JOANNE CASSIDY, OH  
 ELENA D'ALESIO, MA  
 CHARLES & MARY GILBERT, FL  
 JULIE M. KASTRUP, NE  
 GILBERT V. FIMBRES, AZ  
 ROSALIE SALADINO, FL  
 KATHLEEN MCINIERNEY, IL  
 ROBERT A. CAUTERVICO, CA  
 THEODORE SCHAFFER, IA  
 REBEKAH PLASTER, MO  
 CHARLOTTE GAST, KY  
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 JOHN SONNIER, TX  
 MARCIA KAY SCHWARTZ, OH  
 JACQUELINE MANFREDI, FL  
 MOM EBY, OH  
 VIRGINIA MCGEE, NE  
 DOROTHY KEMPCZYNSKI, NJ  
 EDITH SPOTTED EAGLE, MT  
 ETHEL K. TEIXEIRA, HI  
 EDITH A. HOLDER, NY  
 DOLORES CIOBAN, NJ  
 JOSEPH STRNAD, NY  
 JAMES WILLIAMS, OH  
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 DOROTHY SEXTON, MN  
 MARTHA AULTMAN, MS  
 CATHERINE TUNO, PA  
 CELESTE M. COENS, NE  
 JOSEPH DUNN, OH  
 SOPHIE SKALNY, MI  
 SR. KAY KAY S.S.S., ME

CATHERINE A. GRIX, CA  
 MARY M. COURNOYER, NH  
 ANTHONY PIRONE, NJ  
 THELMA YOUNG  
 ELLEN M. WALTER, PA  
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 MARIE LYNCH, ME  
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 GENEVA BARTIG, GA  
 LUCILA CASAS, DE  
 ALFRED & MARIA LOUGHLIN, NJ  
 CECILE J. LEGER, MA  
 SR. ANNETTE BEAVEGARD, CT

## Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name of Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Please send Purgatorial to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Suggested offering: \$10.00 perpetual.  
 Will increase to \$20.00 in March, 2019

## 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

## Our Gift Center



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

- 2019 Wall Calendar (Limited Supply).... \$10.00
- OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEDAL.....\$5.00  
IN GROTTO
- BROWN SCAPULAR.....\$2.00
- GREEN SCAPULAR.....\$2.00
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- 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:  
 P.O. Box 15575, 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594*

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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City \_\_\_\_\_

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On Friday, January 11 and Friday, January 25  
and Friday, February 8 and Friday, February 22,  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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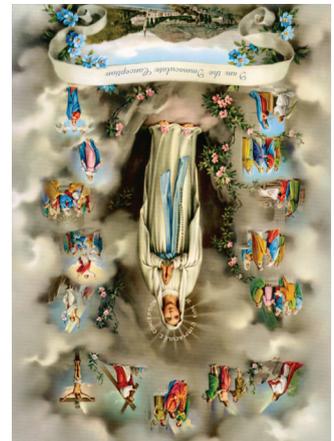
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Please direct your intentions, and any offering you'd like to send, to: Marist Fathers,  
698 Beacon Street, P.O. Box 15575, Boston, MA 02215-0010



**Lourdes Echoes**

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Lourdes.

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**Lourdes Center  
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Lourdes Bureau  
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