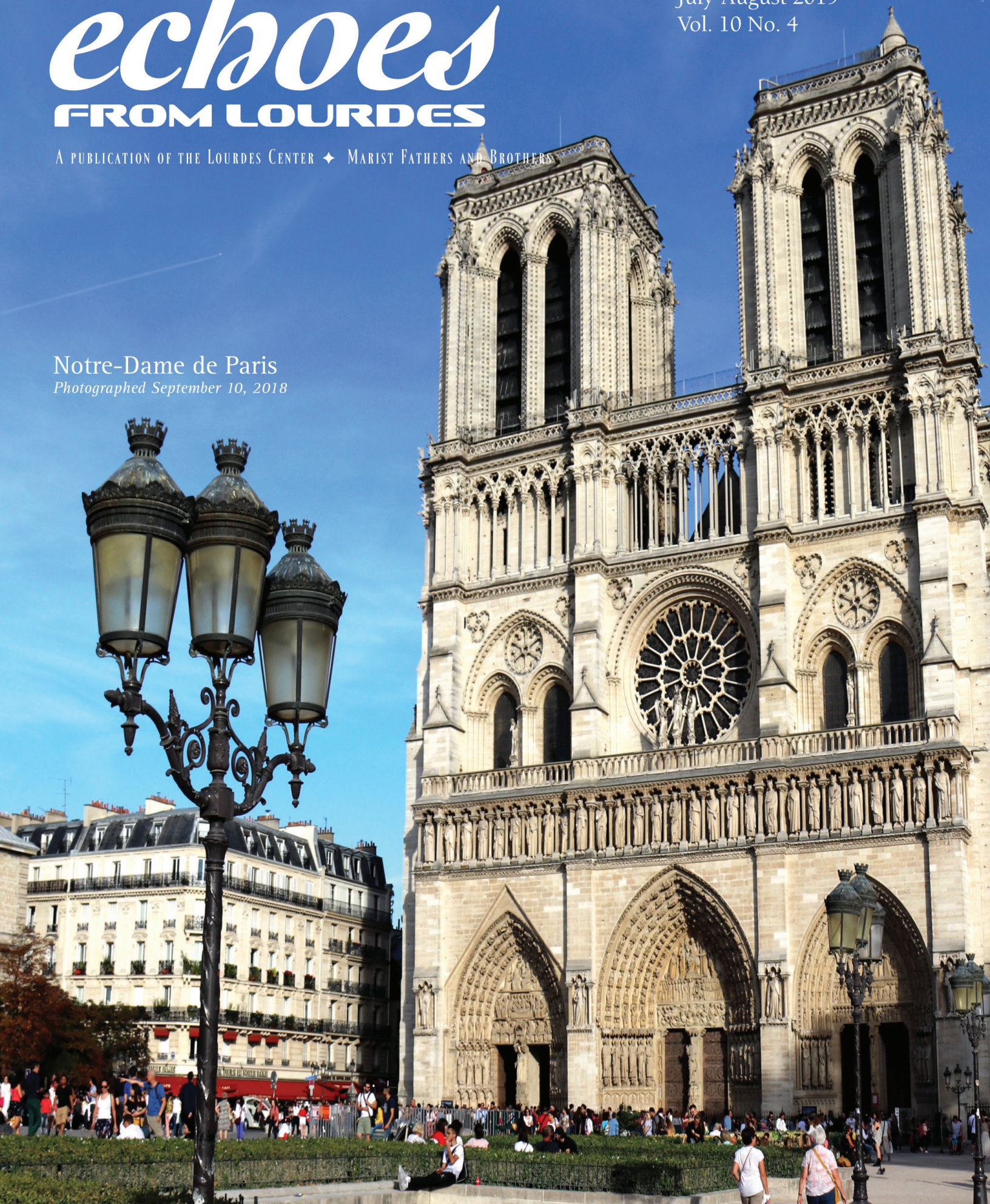


echoes **FROM LOURDES**

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS

July-August 2019
Vol. 10 No. 4

Notre-Dame de Paris
Photographed September 10, 2018





THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

FR. GEORGE SZAL, S.M.

A Second Pentecost

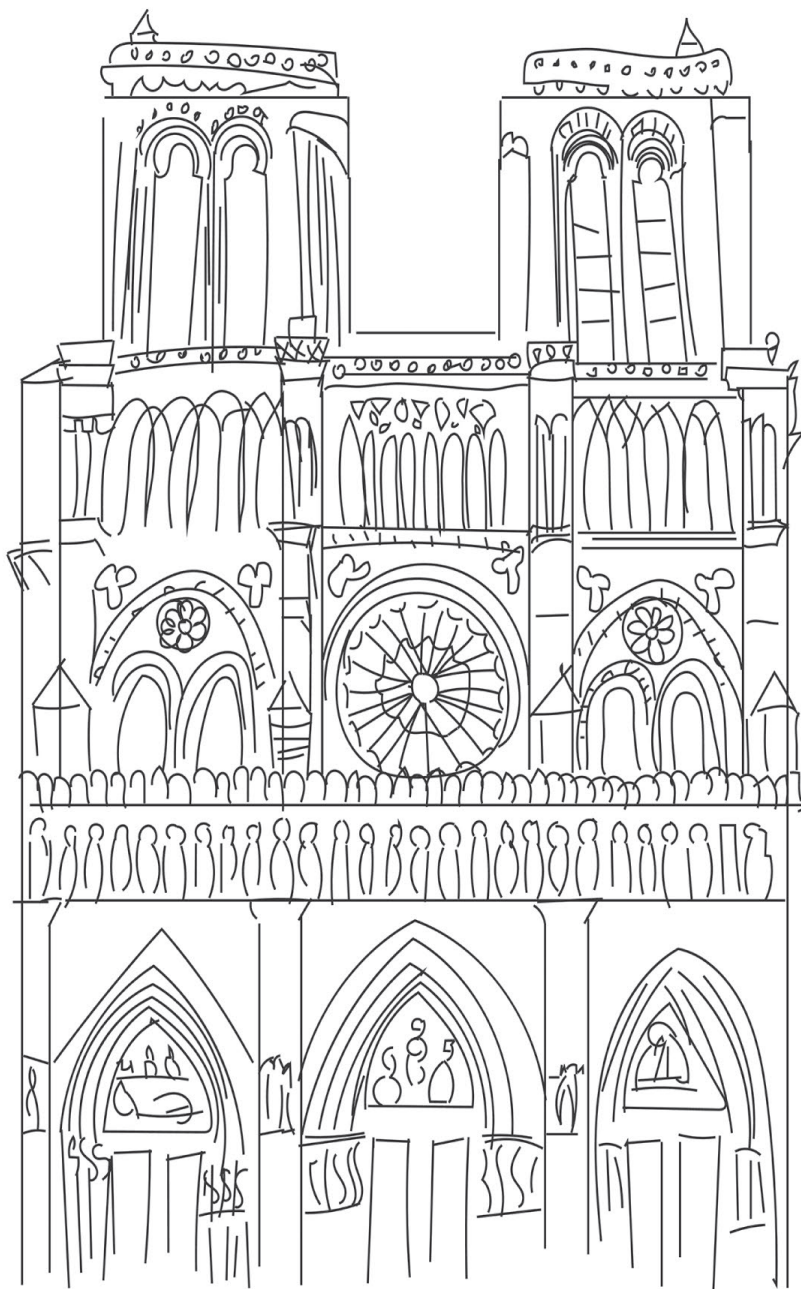
We've Been Here Before

"Christians understand what fire means. It either burns in judgment or purges in preparation for healing, restoration and resurrection. The difference between them is repentance."

-Gavin Ashenden

MOST OF US, even non-Christians, were dismayed by the burning of the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris at the beginning of Holy Week this April. Whether the fire that destroyed almost the entire heart of Our Lady's great church was started by vandals or by accident, I think that it was only a sign of Satan's hatred of God, human life and the Christian culture that supports it. It was also a call to conversion. The faith of the Catholics who built this magnificent testament in stone and glass of their love of God and Mary 800 years ago has pretty much burned away

Continued on next page





**“Penance!
Penance!
Penance!”**

*Our Lady demanded
at Lourdes.*

AT LOURDES

On April 21, 2019, this woman put her hand on and prays near the statue of Saint Bernadette at Sanctuaires Notre-Dame de Lourdes.



Continued from previous page

over the last 200. France, which used to be considered the “eldest daughter of the Church” because of its early conversion, has become perhaps the mostly secular country in Europe. Today, only about 4-5% of those who still identify themselves as Catholic there attend the Eucharist on a regular basis, and Notre Dame is valued more as a tourist attraction and museum than as a place of worship.

Not only in France, but the Christian culture that built and supported western civilization has been eroded over the years. Christianity, for instance, unlike all the other religions of the world, announces that the universe was created by a rational and loving God, that its existence

is not an accident; that it can be explored, cared for and enjoyed by us in preparation for a better life to come. Because of Christianity real science was born in Europe, and real human progress began. Catholic culture gave the world universal education through the creation of monastic schools and universities, hospitals and orphanages, the flowering of business, industry, music and the arts, and a justice system before which every person is treated equally. (If you want to read more about this get a copy of *“What’s So Great about Christianity?”* by Dinesh D’Sousa).

But in our pride and selfishness we in the West have pushed God out of the picture and put “man” in the center. We think that we can create a better world by our own intelligence and power. For in-

stance, shortly before his death, the world renowned physicist, Stephen Hawking said, ““Because there is a law such as gravity the universe can and will create itself from nothing.” What a stupidity! What drivell! And who, pray tell Dr. Hawking, created the law of gravity? It is impossible to get something from nothing!

But now, without God, anything is possible. Much of so-called “science” is no longer based on facts and reason, but on feelings and political correctness. So, today a man can say, “I know that I have the body of a man, but I ‘feel’ like a woman, so make me into one.” A woman can say, “I don’t ‘feel’ like I want this baby, kill it.” In fact, today in the State of New York a baby that survives an abortion can

Continued on next page

“Think of what is above and not of the Earth” COLOSSIANS 3,2

BY FR. FRANK GRISPINO, S.M.

THIS IS SO TRUE! It is foolish not to keep in mind the goal of life. We need to be reminded that we are on a journey. St. Paul warns us that we are citizens of two worlds: heaven and earth. Here, we do not have a lasting city. We await the one to come. St. Peter speaks in the

same vein when addressing the newly baptized as he informs them, and us as well, that we are “sojourners” (1 Peter 1,1) that is, someone on route but “hanging out” in the meantime.

Importance of Visual Aids

Visual aides are a great way to

remind us of our ultimate destination. They can be a crucifix, a rosary hanging from a car mirror, a statue on the car dashboard, or the statue in the yard down the street. Other visuals come readily to mind: a bible, holy card, a religious TV show, a

Continued on next page

A Second Pentecost

Continued from previous page

legally be killed by lethal injection to the skull if the mother so desires. In Holland children 12 years old and older can ask to be euthanized. Doctors there can kill children between one-through-12 who are mentally incompetent and disabled if they think it for the best. Good grief! How far we have fallen from a culture life and into a barbarism that would put Hitler to shame! Truly, Christianity in the West is a burnt out shell. But there is hope.

“Penance! Penance! Penance!” Our Lady demanded at Lourdes. In other apparitions like Fatima and LaSalette dire consequences of war, pestilence and famine were predicted if her warnings were not heeded. There was no need in the time of St. Bernadette to threaten dire consequences if people didn’t

pray and convert as Mary asked. Those disasters were already happening all around Europe – as they are now everywhere in the world. The truth is that God still loves us all. Salvation means Eternal Life in the Trinity and in the Communion of Saints – the destiny of every person born of woman. We have to believe this, live it and share it with a world that is lost and burning in despair. We don’t have to make the whole world Christian, but some have to be the light that shows the way to peace and Eternal life. That’s us! The flames of Notre Dame and the fire of the Holy Spirit call us to prayer and repentance. Our future and the future of the world depend upon these last two things.

Peace,

Fr. George

P.S. 2018 was a tough year for us. Our supply of Lourdes water was interrupted for a while and we had to get a more expensive source for it. Also, we had many problems with our website which required a costly solution and our elevator which broke down (some of us were getting stuck in it) and is finally repaired. We are thankful, therefore, for the ongoing generosity of our friends and donors who support our mission to the sick and suffering. Also, you will notice that the offering for Purgatorials has been increased to \$20.00 because the cost for production and mailing has increased significantly. Thanks for your understanding!

Think of what is above

Continued from previous page

baseball player making a quick sign of the cross at the plate. News of one more massacre of Christians could serve as a jolting reminder. But there is one place that has it all together, deliberately set aside, that gives anticipation of the world to come: the interior of a Catholic Church.

A haven for the world weary

To close the door behind you as you enter the church is to enter space like no other. What you leave behind is the world. It is profane, that is to say, it is the ordinary world of sounds and sights of hustle and bustle, all that is commonplace in life. But once within you feel the difference. The profane has given way to holy ground. You are in contact with the saints, statues representing the friends of God. Let's not by-pass the angels, God's messengers. Like Jacob at the shrine of Bethel you may want to cry out, "How awesome is this place! This is nothing else but the abode of God and the gateway to heaven" (Gen 28, 17). The red glow of the sanctuary lamp at attention next to the tabernacle is the pointer to the Divine Presence that lies therein. But before we



delve into this mystery let's speak of another tabernacle.

The Tabernacle by adoption

We did not mention an external sign that can be seen as you enter the main body of the church and that is the holy water font. The fingers are dipped into the water and the sign of the cross is made over oneself. The use of the holy water and the sign of the cross in the name of the Trinity; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

recalls our spiritual birth by baptism. It was then that we became a child of God, the tabernacle or temple of God with dual citizenship, "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Holy Spirit dwells within you?" (1 Cor 6,19)

Access to the Lord's Table

New spiritual life warrants spiritual food. This is way different from common, ordinary food we are used to. When we consume ordinary food, we add such nourishment to our dignity as humans. What is inferior is taken up into the superior. Just the opposite happens when receiving Holy Communion. In that instance the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of the Risen Christ takes us, the inferior, up into his own Divine Nature!

Shades of the Transcendence

It is no wonder, then, that upon entering the interior of the church there is the customary genuflection and the kneeling in the pew with eyes gazing up at the main attraction: the tabernacle. We find ourselves comfortable in such surroundings. We have the sense of belonging and being at home.

Readers Write

MY FATHER was healed by Lourdes water when I was 14. I am now 85. Dad was allergic to penicillin and has lost all his skin except on his face and back. Doctors had given up trying to save him. A sister of St. Agnes in Monroe, Wisconsin used Lourdes Water on him. He was home in three days! It took about six weeks for his skin and body to strengthen so that he could go back to work. He quietly became a healer of people on the edge who knew that he could come to him. He died at 77 in my arms saying, "I love you," three times. Gratefully, **MR**

MY HUSBAND was diagnosed with cancer about a year ago. He had a good sized tumor on his rectum. It meant an operation and a colostomy bag. He went for treatments. He used Lourdes

Water faithfully. He went for his CAT scan and scope. They both showed that the tumor was gone. He goes in for another CAT scan and scope in 4 months. Thanks be to God and Our Lady of Lourdes! Sincerely, **JT**

I HAVE Sinoidosis, a disease caused by inflammation. It affects my lungs, manifesting itself with chest pain, severe at times. With the help of an anti-inflammation diet and, most of all, Lourdes Water applied to my chest, I am greatly relieved! Our Lady of Lourdes is a wonderful Mother, caring for her children marvelous and curing ways! **CB**

ON FEBRUARY 19, 1987, while at work, a clamp holding a 1,100 lb. unit sheared and the unit fell on me, pinning

me to the floor from my shoulders on down. My knee cap was pushed to about an inch from my ankle. The bones and ligaments in my legs were broken and the cartilage and ligaments mostly destroyed. The surgeon suggested amputation since I would never walk again, and told my parents not to bother praying for a cure since he had never seen it do any good. After several trips to Lourdes and 8 years of physical therapy I am walking again with the help of a cane. Before he retired my surgeon asked for some Lourdes Water since another patient of his had gone to Lourdes and was cured beyond all medical predictions! **NB**

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.

*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

A Gift from You...

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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.

VIRGINIA GALVS, IL
DR. JOHN TITUS, NJ
ROSE RICHARD, MD
BERNADINE FERREK, MO
JOHN JOSEPH LYNCH, VA
DORIS M. PARKER, LA
MORRIS J. DARBY, TN
MACKENZIE ANN KEEVER, MI
DOMINIC ANDRIACCHI, MI
TRACY BENNETT, AZ
JOANN AND ROCCO SAVINO, NY
BARBARA AND ED KNIBBS
ARLINE SCHLOTH, MA
MARGARET SCHMIDT, AZ
SR. BLANCHE LACASSE, MA
ELIZABETH SOKOL, OH
OLIVIA BARTHOLOMEW, CA
J. MCCAFFERTY, OH
ROSIE MCCAFFERTY, OH
DOREEN BROWN, PA
BABARA STALHAMMER, WA
MARIE NAVIN, FL
LEONARD C. MOTYKA, MI
ALAN MCKELVY, NJ
GERALDINE O'CONNOR, NY
LUPE CASTRO, CA

SR. CARMELINA KIELAS, IL
SR. JOYCE MARIE RANKIN, IL
DOROTHY JOHNSON
GENEVIEVE AND JAMES WENDLAND, MD
JOSEFINA GUERRA, TX
SR. MARTHA HERZOG, IL
MARY L. LIPSEY, MI
TOM BRUMFIELD, OH
MARY A. WILSON, KS
CHARLOTTE WIMETT, CA
JANICE BORGAGNANI, NJ
ANNABELLE CLEMENT, LA
MICHAEL KEMPCZYNSKI, NJ
ANNETTE GAGNON, MA
PAULINE POESCHEL, WI
CELESTE DONATO, CA
KATHERINE DERSCHER, ND
MARY A. HARGARTEN, MN
MARY AND FRED WIEGERS, MO
WILLIAM WALKER, NJ
MARY DIGNEY, AK
AUBINA MOLINAR, TX
JANICE SANDS, MD
EMMA BEST, MD
ROBERT DEADMAN, NY
MARGARET PHELAN, CO
BILLY CAMAROQUE, LA
CESAR VERA, VA
DORIS BOISVERT
DORIS SCHMIDT
THERESA ESPRITE, LA
FRANZ KERTENKAEMPER, MA
BRENT BOURGEOIS, LA
BECKY LUCERO, NM
EMELDA LUIPPOLD, PA
LOUIS PERHAVEC, OH
HELEN BATEMAN, CA
REV. PATRICK COYLE, CA

REV. BRENDAN SMETANA, O.B., PA
REV. FRANCIS SPRINGER, CA
REV. T. HUGHES, S.M., CA
BRO. PATRICK SOUZA, CA
CLARA T. ANDREWS, AK
ROSE M. GUNTER, MO
LYNN DIEGELMAN, NY
SR. MARY BONITA, P.V.B.M., IA
LOIS HASELSTEINER, NY
PEGGY DAVIS, TX
SR. MARY G. OLINGER, WI
LORETTA, J. HALBOTH, TX
MR. AND MRS. EUGENE HALBOTH, TX
BERNADETTE MELE, IL
RITA SIPOTZ, IN
ROSLYN CLARKE, NY
VIVIAN J. KEMP, ME
MARTHA TRADER, AK
RICHARD JOHNSON, MN
MARALYN RENKEN, AZ

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 GROTT
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:
P.O. Box 15575, 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594*

Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name of Deceased _____

Please send Purgatorial to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Requested by: _____

Suggested offering: \$20.00 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**

Affiliations

*Remembrance in 50 Masses Yearly
and at our Weekly Perpetual Novena*

Requested by: _____

Phone Number: _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

On Friday, July 12 and Friday, July 26
and Friday, August 9 and Friday, August 23,
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
Published bi-monthly to promote devotion
to Our Lady and interest in her shrine at
Lourdes.
Director: Rev. George, Szal, S.M.
Printed with Ecclesiastical Approval



**Lourdes Center
Marist Fathers
Lourdes Bureau
P.O. Box 15575
698 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02215-2594
www.lourdescenter.org
OurLady@LourdesCenter.org**

Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANGHORNE, PA
PERMIT No. 114