

# *echoes*

**FROM LOURDES**

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*A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS*





## THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

FR. PHILIP PARENT, SM

Greetings to you all from the Lourdes Center! I want to let you know about a decision made in December of last year that adds a 71st person to the list of those who have been declared as having been miraculously cured at the Lourdes Shrine. That list now includes, for the first time, an English-speaking patient. I read about this in the Catholic publication, "America", whose source was the OSV News. Archbishop Malcolm McMahon of Liverpool officially announced on Dec. 8 that the 71st miracle had been granted to a British soldier, wounded during World War I. John Traynor, a soldier in the Royal Navy, was hit by machine-gun fire in 1915 in present-day Turkey. He was cured at Lourdes during a pilgrimage for his diocese in 1923. "This is a very special case, since we had to search the archives for the result of investigative work that had been carried out almost 100 years ago," commented Fra' Alessandro de Franciscis, the doctor in charge of the Lourdes Office of Medical Observations since 2009. "In reality, this healing had already been officially recognized at Lourdes in 1926".

According to details provided by the sanctuary, Traynor had undergone numerous surgeries after his injuries, but to no avail. De Franciscis said: "He had lost the use of his right arm and suffered from severe epileptic seizures. Attempts at medical treatment had resulted in partial paralysis of his legs. In July 1923, he went to Lourdes as part of the first pilgrimage of the Archdiocese of Liverpool, and he was cured on the third day, immediately, instantly and completely, after being immersed in a sanctuary pool. When he returned home to the U.K., he was examined by doctors. They were amazed. Three doctors who were with him on the pilgrimage encouraged him to return to Lourdes to testify to his healing. That is what he did in July 1926. The investigation followed the usual procedures. The conclusion was that this cure was truly inexplicable. The sanctuary's newspaper published the minutes of this meeting. Because of post-war turbulence in Europe, communications between Lourdes and Liverpool regarding conclusions of the inquiry were never forwarded to the Archbishop of Liverpool. "In general, the healings recognized by the sanctuary in the 1920s and 1930s were most often not made public until the 1950s. The official documents attesting to his recovery in Lourdes, before and after the miracle, were forgotten," the doctor told OSV News. After his recovery, John Traynor became a member of the Hospitalité of Lourdes, where he went every year," de Franciscis said, referring to the religious confraternity under the authority of the bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, which is active in Lourdes during the main pilgrimage season, providing people to welcome pilgrims at the sanctuary's baths. He was strong and healthy and it was obvious that there had been a miracle.

"On the occasion of the centenary of this first pilgrimage to Lourdes by the Archdiocese of Liverpool, we turned our attention back to his case," de Franciscis explained. "We undertook a search of the archives, and found the documents. They prove beyond doubt that the Lourdes Bureau had made a definitive judgment on the unexplained nature of this cure. They are clear and unambiguous." In recent months, Bishop Jean-Marc Micas of Tarbes and Lourdes, was able to forward a complete dossier to the Archdiocese of Liverpool, which led its archbishop to recognize the healing as a miracle, the doctor confirmed. Traynor, who died in 1943, is therefore the 71st recognized miraculous cure from Lourdes. "And John Traynor is the first case of healing of an English-speaking patient," de Franciscis said. "Most of the miracles were for French people There are Italians too, a Belgian and a German. But there were not any English speakers until now". From the priests, Lourdes Center workers, and volunteers: May God bless you all during the Lenten and Easter season!

Peace,

*Fr. Philip Parent, SM*

Director



## LENT AND EASTER

When you receive this issue of Echoes from Lourdes, Lent will likely have already begun on Ash Wednesday, March 5th. This season of penance and spiritual renewal has three pillars: prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Let's remember that these three or any Lenten practice or penance are not ends in themselves. They are means to lead us to a deeper union with our Lord, Jesus Christ. The days right after Lent: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday and Easter allow us to be present to what is the heart of our faith – the “Last Supper” and the gift of the Eucharist, the arrest and suffering of Jesus, his trial and condemnation, the carrying of the cross, the crucifixion and death of Jesus, the silence of the tomb, and finally the joy of the resurrection of our Lord, a joy shared with his apostles and disciples on the same day. Lent may seem long – 40 days! – but we get to celebrate the Risen Christ in the Easter season for 50 days! Something to look forward to! In closing, on behalf of all of us at the Lourdes Center: We wish you a fruitful Lent and joyful and peace-filled Easter and Easter season!

Fr. Phil



# Readers Write

Dear Father Parent,

My mother (now deceased) and I visited the Lourdes Center in the 90's when Fr. Caron was there. He showed us all around. We saw some volunteers filling the small bottles with Lourdes water that comes from the grotto in Lourdes. I went there on pilgrimage in 2005 and it was wonderful. My aunt, T.A.R., introduced me to the Lourdes Center in Boston many years ago. I am so thankful to her because since that time, Our Lady of Lourdes is very special to me.

**C.G.T., Missouri**

## TO KEEP IN MIND

**These are some things that you should know regarding being in touch with the Lourdes Center.**

1. We don't accept orders over the phone and don't accept credit cards for payment.
2. We only ship items to the U. S. (including territories – e. g. Guam) and Canada.
3. It's very helpful that you give us all the information we need, written clearly, and that any checks are signed.
4. Please be clear about what any offering is for, especially if it is made for several items.
5. Any order shipped through the U. S. Post Office may take more than a few days to reach you. It may take 2 or more weeks, depending on holidays, bad weather, or other factors.



# MARIST GUIDANCE

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, SM

## *Why Did God Make Me?*

This was the title of an article. What caught my attention was the subtitle: “How My Wedding Vows Saved My Life.” The author of the article was confronted with a life-threatening decision. Should he face a heart operation labeled “an experiment” or should he not because of the uncertainty of its success? After hours of weighing the matter, he recalls his wedding vows. His problem was solved and he opted for the operation. Did he not promise his life to his wife? It was an illumination!

Being a religious man, he proceeds to give a biblical basis for his decision. We can summarize his explanation by this one statement: Jesus was man for others. So, he would witness to Jesus and be a man for others – his wife and children. He will live for them!

## *That Question*

The simple question, “Why did God make me?” is of paramount importance. The Lourdes Center is situated in the city of Boston where colleges are in walking distance of each other. Students are everywhere you turn. I have often asked myself whether these students, so in pursuit of knowledge, know or even ask themselves the question: the reason for their very existence?

In a college classroom I witnessed the following incident. The teacher happened to mention by chance, the answer to the



question of man’s existence. He spouted off the catechism answer: God made me to know him, to love him, and to serve him in this world in order to be happy with him, eternally, in the world to come. This answer came glibly to the lips as the Our Father or the Hail Mary. I recall the incident lucidly because a student spoke out and asked the teacher to repeat what he just said. And to do so slowly so she could write it down in her notebook. She had struck gold!

## *Avoiding the Question*

Why is that? To admit that we have a Creator may cause consternation. Some people would be reluctant to even want to consider belief in a Creator. To know such a mindset exists, we need only turn to ideas such as those who believe we humans

have the ability: To transition from one sex to another, to engage in same sex marriages, to murder the unborn – with governmental approval no less! The late Pope Benedict the XVI stated it well: “The sins committed today are against the Creator. We go to extremes in order to get out from under obligations of our God-given conscience that dictates: Do good; avoid evil, all spelled out in the TEN COMMANDMENTS.”

## *Comments: Why God Made Us?*

To know Him: We know the Personal God by Faith. Faith is the conviction of things unseen. It is a virtue, a power. Faith is a free gift – unearned. It is infused into the soul at Baptism. It is like a smile the child first

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# MARIST GUIDANCE

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sees on its mother's face who then returns what it has received. So, the Christian gives back to God the gift he received.

To love Him: To know Jesus is to love Him. This is the heart of faith. Did He not say: "When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12, 32). Love, like faith, is infectious. It too is infused into the soul, a power that enables love to be the motive of obedience to the commandments. God first loved us when we were sinners. Like the smile first seen on the mother's face, we give back

what is given to us. To serve Him: Our service will be judged by our deeds of love of God and love of neighbor as OURSELVES.

## Conclusion

The purpose of human existence is to know, love and serve God in this world in order to be happy with Him eternally in the next. The wonderment of this is: All creatures on earth have as their purpose to be of service to man; in contrast, man has no other purpose than his own good! Let's go for it!



## 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](mailto:ourlady@lourdescenter.org)

Postal mail to:

LOURDES CENTER

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.

ALICE F. SHANNON, IA  
 VIRGINIA ANDREAS, NM  
 JOHN ALBRIGHT, MD  
 EVA MONTICELLI, WI  
 ALICE SHEETZ, PA  
 GEORGE HESTER, KS  
 VIRGINIA KRAFT, OH  
 SHIRLEE NICOLINO, CA  
 HORTENSIA VIASUS, MA  
 AGNES HRNCIR, TX  
 CAROL LENNON, MA  
 PHILIP HELFRICH, HI  
 BARBARA POSNIEWSKI, MD  
 MADGE HUME, WA  
 DIXIE FRIESS, KY  
 MILDRED LENT, NY  
 MARY HAZEL, NM  
 JOSE ABURTO, CA  
 MRS. PAT MURRAY, MA  
 LINDA RUBASH, KS  
 DOLORES JACOBS, OH

AUDREY L. ORGERON  
 JOSEPH A. GIFFORD  
 JEAN ANZALONE  
 MARY FERENCAK  
 MARGE LOWE, FL  
 ROSE MARIE YEN, OH  
 SR. PATRICIA CONNOLLY, KS  
 MARIETTA A. HUPPERT, KS  
 KAY FALLON, FL  
 JUDITH A. BRACKEN, VA  
 MARY TWIGG, WV  
 HELEN LIVINGSTON, NY  
 JILL LIVINGSTON, NY  
 ROSE M. PERRTTO, CO  
 GEORGEANNA SOMMERS, WI  
 ELLEN LE SOTA, CT  
 HELEN BRYAN, MN

## 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: Lourdes Center, 698 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02215-2594

## Our Gift Center



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

- OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEDAL IN GROTTTO.....\$5.00
- BROWN SCAPULAR.....\$3.00
- OUR GIFT FROM MARY SCAPULAR BOOKLET.....\$3.00
- BROWN SCAPULAR BOOKLET AND BROWN.....\$5.00  
SCAPULAR
- GREEN SCAPULAR.....\$2.00
- BOOKLET: "LOURDES AND OUR LADY".....\$4.00  
BY FR. JOHN LYNCH, S.M.

Please send your order with payment to:  
 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

## Affiliations

Remembrance in 50 Masses yearly.

Person to be Affiliated:

\_\_\_\_\_

Requested by:

\_\_\_\_\_

### Offering

1 year: \$2.00; 3 years: \$5.00; Lifetime: \$10.00

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

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

On Friday, March 14 and Friday, March 28  
and Friday, April 11 and Friday, April 25,  
the Marists 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 prayer day when we offer special prayers and celebrate a Mass at our chapel for our extended Lourdes family.

Please send us your intentions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please direct your intentions, and any offering you'd like to send, to:  
Lourdes Center, 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

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to Our Lady and interest in her shrine at  
Lourdes.  
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### Lourdes Echoes



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