

# *echoes*

## **FROM LOURDES**

May - June, 2025  
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*A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS*





FR. PHILIP PARENT, SM

## THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

May God bless all of you who read this issue of “Echoes from Lourdes”! We are all grateful that the season of spring is truly here. Now that’s something to celebrate! Spring is the wonderful season between the cold, snowy, and stormy weather of winter and the great heat and, often, the humidity of summer. You’ve already seen what was on the cover of this issue: a photo taken very close to the grotto in Lourdes. When people go on pilgrimage to Lourdes, the grotto of Massabielle is the place they most want to see and experience. This is the place where young Bernadette Soubirous saw a young woman, clothed in white with a blue sash which she later recognized as the Blessed Virgin Mary. In order to get to the grotto, one has to go when no Mass is being celebrated there and joining the line of people who also want to spend time there. The line is single file as you walk along a huge rock wall to your left. Soon, the wall gives way to an opening, the cave known as a grotto. Inevitably, the people in that line put their hands on the rock wall as they walk along. You can see two pilgrims doing just that on the cover. The rock is made up of the same materials found everywhere in the Pyrenees mountains, a rock wall now visible because of action of glaciers over thousands of years and also by erosion caused by the river Gave. Physically feeling the rock adds to sense of actually being in the place where earth and heaven met in the encounter between Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes. In the scriptures, God Himself is referred to as a rock many times – one who is both immovable and protective. Twenty times in the Psalms, God is called a rock. In Psalm 18:2, we read: “The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold”. In 1 Corinthians 10:4, Christ Himself is referred to as a rock, the one who frees us from evil and sin. Jesus calls Peter a rock in Matthew’s Gospel, chapter 16, verse 18: “You are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my Church.” Now, are there others who can be considered “rocks” for us? Who else can fit the bill? To help us answer that, we can use definitions of and synonyms for the noun “rock”. I found these words in a couple of dictionaries: “a support, foundation, refuge, cornerstone, source of protection, backbone, anchor, mainstay, tower of strength”. Using words already seen in the psalm quote, God is a fortress, deliverer, and shield. I’d say that the Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus and Mother of God, can be considered a “rock”. Along with St. Joseph, she was the mainstay and the source of protection and security for Jesus until he began his mission at the age of 30. Our Lady is a tower of strength and a refuge for us as we seek her intercession and rely on her loving care. In May and June, we celebrate both Mother’s and Father’s Day. We can speak of our parents as the rocks of our families. They were not perfect, to be sure, but for a large majority of us, we believe they did their best to be the anchors and supports of our family life and of us as individuals. Now what about us? Is it possible to believe that we are “rocks”, or could be so, for other people in our lives? We can reflect on these thoughts in the days to come. I end now by wishing all of you God’s blessing and the peace of Christ. Enjoy Mary’s month of May!

Peace,

*Fr. Philip Parent, SM*

Director

## *A LOURDES MIRACLE*

Mrs. Madelaine Rizan was born in 1800 in Nay, France, about 15 miles northwest of Lourdes. In her 30's, she gradually became paralyzed on the left side of her body. She first had difficulty moving around her home and gradually became bedridden. She suffered from this condition for over 20 years. Madelaine was often in great pain, some of which was caused by bedsores, and she had great difficulty with her digestion. The doctors that she consulted abandoned all hope of a cure for her. In September of 1858, Madelaine received the Sacrament of Extreme Unction and, from that day, prayed for the "grace of a happy death". On Saturday, October 16, her death seemed imminent. The next morning, her daughter brought her some Lourdes water. She drank a few sips and applied some to her face and body. Immediately, she was cured. Her strength returned, her skin regained its normal appearance, and her muscles became active. The woman that was dying the evening before now was completely healed! After that day, she could once again get up, dress and eat, and lead a normal life. She never had a relapse. Madelaine lived for 11 years after her healing, dying of natural causes in 1869 at the age of 69. Her complete healing was confirmed and declared miraculous on January 18, 1862 by the Bishop of Tarbes, Bertrand Laurence.



### **PLEASE NOTE**

Last month, we received word that a mistake was made in the last issue of "Echoes" in the list of deceased Echoes readers; a person listed there as deceased is actually still living. We were told that Kimberly Kmon had died and that is not the case. We apologize for this mistake. We were also asked to pray for Kimberley, who is having a struggle with a severe disability. We pray for her and ask your prayers too.

## Readers Write

Dear Fr. Philip,

You have no idea how grateful I am that I am able to procure Lourdes water via your Center. Your Marist Society is the closest I shall ever get to Lourdes, France. I am no longer working part-time, but I will do my utmost to provide what I can for your Society. I have consecrated all my earthly possessions to the Blessed Mother and she continues to love me so much, through the Blessed Trinity, that I lack for nothing. In certain areas of my life, I most assuredly have to improve, without a doubt – I keep trying!! If you would pray for my soul, I would be most appreciative. I shall pray for you and Father Frank. One more request ... pray earnestly for my only child, my son, to return to the Roman Catholic faith and for the conversion of my daughter-in-law. Pray too that my grandchildren will return to the faith. May God keep you well and truly faithful. **M. H.**

Dear Fr. Parent,

A while ago, if you remember, I sent for Lourdes water for R., who is in Italy. She has a brain tumor and was given only a short time to live. She has endured so much – surgeries, chemo, etc., for many, many months. I had encouraged her family to take her to Lourdes, which they did. It was just an overnight visit. I received word today she is now back to going to Mass, walking her dog, etc. She is looking very good. I give thanks to Our God, to Our Lady, and everyone there for the prayers that are offered every day for all who are ill. Please remember R. and her family. Thank you, sincerely.

**C. E.**

### **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY AND HAPPY FATHER'S DAY!**

*We ask for God's special blessing on those of you who are fathers and mothers. Let's add grandfathers and grandmothers too! The special days on which we honor our parents and grandparents, living and deceased, in May and June are signs of our love and our gratitude for them. Blessings too on those who are stepparents and those who have been like mothers and fathers for us in their love and support.*



# MARIST GUIDANCE

## Encountering God

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, SM

Our compassionate and merciful Savior has devised a backup master plan. He will not be ignored, sidelined, or forgotten as that major player in my life and yours. We find the Lord's plan in a film based on a true story: *Driving Miss Daisy*.

### *Preface to the Story*

First, it is most important that we be informed about the findings of those who work in geriatrics and other professionals who work with the elderly such as social workers, doctors, nurses, a friend or even an employee, as will be shown at the close of the story at hand. These people are unanimous in sharing with us the ups and downs, peaks and valleys, of their charges. From their conversations about the bitter and better episodes of life the constant refrain by word or changed disposition is, "Things worked out well in the end." The story in the movie is an illustration of what those who work closely with the elderly call "life review."

### *A Life Review*

Miss Daisy is introduced to us as a senior citizen who is critical and cranky with a well-honed sour disposition. She gives the impression of relishing a tall glass of pure unadulterated lemon juice as a startup to face each morning. The highlight of her story comes when she unloads a burden she has been carrying far too long. She is complaining to her chauffeur about the hard times

during her life. She recalls her early days when she had to wear hand-me-downs; food in the home was a scarce commodity; peanut butter and jelly sandwiches was a common meal of the day; many a night she went to bed hungry.

The irony of her ranting is exposed in that memorable scene in the movie: the chauffeur at the far end of the walkway faces her standing at the door of her palatial house, grass cut manicured lawn, hedges trimmed, duck pond visible on the left, latest model automobile out front, the annual gift from her son who has inherited the family fortune and pays all her bills. The chauffeur counters her complaints with the refrain, "But everything is okay now, Miss Daisy! Everything is okay now!"

### *The Happy Outcome*

Miss Daisy was a prisoner caught up in a time zone dating back to the days of her youth. It takes

someone with patience who is willing to be attentive to ease a beleaguered person out of a chill and darkened prison into the warm light of freedom. Her chauffeur was God's agent performing the task of thawing her out of the frost. Some people can escape from their hapless time capsule by speaking out their ups and downs of life to discover that their life at last makes sense.

It is a holy and blessed event to arrive at the realization that one's life has been under the watchful gaze of an all-loving God. That Miss Daisy encountered God who is deserving of a response of gratitude is strikingly demonstrated by the end of the movie: Her change of demeanor! The audience is convinced that Miss Daisy now begins the startup of her mornings with a tall glass of lemon juice – but now sweetened!

*Continued on next page*



# MARIST GUIDANCE

Continued from previous page

## Assisting A Life Review

As was the custom in those days, I was visiting the home of a parishioner. I was surprised during our conversation when he informed me that he had not gone to church in years! His story begins in the early days of his marriage when he finds himself without a job. He relates how he would start each morning visiting the parish church to implore God's help before sauntering forth in search of a job. His prayers were not answered – not the first week, not the second, nor the third nor the fourth! Frustrated, he walked out

slamming the church door and that was thirty-five years ago!

There I was, seated in his living room, listening to his sad story but at the same time learning a few details, such as: He owned the house, the first floor was rented and, yes, that newly minted automobile in the driveway was his, and the woman in the kitchen preparing his dinner was his wife. I could not wait a minute longer and blurted out, "Well, after all, your prayers were at last answered!" I recall distinctly how his face answered with a sheepishly beaming boyish smile.

At the time, I was unaware of the term "life review", much less the movie, *Driving Miss Daisy*. On a more personal note, the title and content of this article was triggered by this quotation from Pope Benedict XVI, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter of an event, a person, that gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction."

May your encounter with Christ be found in your "life review" and with it the expected endearing and enduring lifetime of gratitude.

## 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.

ANNE WALSH, NL  
 MARIE CENSULO, MA  
 STELLA SIMONE, MA  
 MARIE CARDIELLO, MA  
 ADAM KAZLAUSKAS, IL  
 STEVE TRENKLE, IA  
 PHYLLIS MONDA, PA  
 SHIRLEY DOVICHOW, PA  
 JOSEPH LOUIS, TX  
 STEVE HAYS, CA  
 JEAN ANZALONE, MA  
 MARY HAZEL, NM  
 JOHN R. AYLWARD, IL  
 CARLEE WILLIAMS, DC  
 BARBARA A. KRIEGEL, OH  
 JOSEPHINE GOFF, TX  
 SR. PAUL PETER, MAGNATERRA, MD  
 ROSE M. PERETTO, CO  
 CECILIA KEENAN, MN  
 RENE BUCHANAN, MA  
 JANE M. SADZIKOWSKI, MI  
 SR. MODESTA NEUBAUER, IA  
 SR. MIRIAM GOGA, IA  
 BARBARA F. GANGI, MA  
 AGNES HRNCIR, TX  
 LEO FUDA, IL

SARA JANE POLI, ME  
 ERNEST LEWANDOWSKI, MN  
 ESTHER FLAMMING, IA  
 AGATHA SULLIVAN, NY  
 EVON PUETZ, IA  
 DOLORES MURPHY, CA  
 HELEN PAJESTKA, TX  
 BLANCHE HOPE, TX  
 ROSA WITTENBERG, WI  
 ISABEL FREEMAN, WY  
 LYDIA REISTROM, NY  
 BERNADETTE BENOIT, MA  
 ERNESTINE ANDERSON, DC  
 JOHN ARMBRUSTER, MO  
 JACQUELINE ARMBRUSTER, MO  
 ED L. ALVAREZ, NY  
 JUDY GROOVER, FL  
 ROBERT KUBIAK, NY  
 STEPHEN PIESIK, WI  
 RONALD HILTZ, CO  
 CAROL MULROY, IN  
 CLAUDETTE THERIAULT, CT  
 BETTY LOU HAMMARGREN, MN  
 RALPH MANKOWSKY, MA  
 ANDREW & BETTY WENBERG, OH  
 JEAN TOBIN, CA  
 ROSE M. CAMPBELL, MD  
 SR. MICHELE MACMILLAN, WA  
 JOHN TERMINE, CT  
 SR. CAMELITA M. MIELE, PA

CHARLES KRUMP, MN  
 MARY JEPSEN, TX  
 LILLIAN M. PATKE, TX  
 CAROLYN KENNEDY, TX

## 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.

## Our Gift Center



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

- OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEDAL IN GROTTO.....\$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, May 9 and Friday, May 23  
and Friday, June 13 and Friday, June 27,  
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: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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.  
Director: Rev. Philip Parent, SM  
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OurLady@LourdesCenter.org

*Address Service Requested*