

Echoes from Lourdes

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,



St. Joseph is the quiet hidden character of the Christmas Drama. He is all but overlooked on December 25th. All eyes rightfully focus on the Child Jesus and His Mother. But in the aftermath of the celebration of Christ's Nativity and the beginning of the New Year... there are lessons to be drawn from the "Third Person" in the Stable Scene! Joseph, like Jesus and Mary is called by the Father to a role in the mystery of Redemption. He is called to Holiness, to an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

Because Joseph listens with his heart, he responds to that call as Mary did at the Annunciation: "Let it be done to me according to God's will!"

Both Joseph & Mary echo Jesus' prayer on the Mount of Olives: "Not my will but Thine be done!"

Joseph's attitude helped him surmount serious obstacles in his life: Mary's mysterious pregnancy, acceptance for the challenge to flee to a foreign county for the safety of his family, etc.

Yes, January gives us the opportunity to reflect on this quiet and powerful man of God who accepted his role on the Divine Christmas Drama with a profound Faith and humility.

As we remember and ponder Joseph's faithfulness to the task at hand, may we also recommit ourselves in this New Year to bring "Christ's Body of the Church" to life in all God's people.

Fr. Gerry Demers, S.M.
Director

Make a Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Make a Pilgrimage of Faith
May 17-25th, 2005
All Inclusive \$1,898.00

Deadline for registration is March 15th, 2005

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ representing
\$200.00 deposit per person and payable to Lourdes Center

Name(s) _____

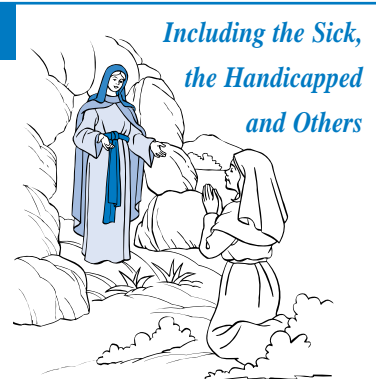
Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Room Companion (of my choice) will be _____





The 53rd Officially Recognized Miracle at Lourdes

Thea Angele: Born in 1921 in Tettwang, Germany, and cured on May 20, 1950. Miracle recognized June 28, 1961, by Mgr. Pierre-Marie Theas, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes.

Before she could no longer communicate she had often asked to be taken to Lourdes. The multiple sclerosis which had worn her down had taken away all of her faculties. Her state had not stopped deteriorating, particularly after the aerial bombings of April 1945 on the road to Tubingen, which had left her trapped. In 1950, those around her decided to carry out, in spite of the protests of the doctors, what they thought was her last wish and take her to Lourdes. "How can you take a dying woman for nearly thirty hours on a train to another country?" asked one of her doctors. She arrived safely on May 17, 1950. Following several baths and the Blessed-Sacrament Procession, she had recovered within a few hours all the faculties which she had lost; speech, muscular strength, walking eating. All the information was gathered in detail in the Medical Bureau's Dossier. But what is not found there is Thea's spiritual cure. She decided in 1955 to enter the Convent of the Immaculate Conception in Lourdes. Since then there has been no signs of relapse in Thea who became Sister Marie Mercedes.

Prayer of Entrusting the Church To Mary, Mother of God

O Mother of all peoples; you know all their sufferings and their hopes. You maternally feel all their struggles between good and evil, between the light and the darkness which shake the world. Receive our cry, directed in the Holy Spirit straight to your Heart and, with the love of the Mother and Handmade of the Lord, embrace the individuals and peoples which most look for this embrace, together with the individuals and people to whose trust you attend in a particular way. Take the entire human family under your maternal protection. With outflows of affection, O Mother, we entrust it to you. May the time of peace and liberty approach for all, the time of truth, justice, and hope. Amen.

- Pope John Paul II

(Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, January 1st)

Available from the Lourdes Center

Crystal Rosaries (with water from Lourdes) (rose, blue, clear, black).....	\$6.85
Brown or Green Scapulars.....	1.00
O.L. Lourdes or St. Bernadette pins.....	3.50
Lourdes Grotto medal and chain.....	3.00
“Bernadette” by Fr. John Lynch, SM.....	2.00
“Joseph The Carpenter” by G. Caron.....	3.00
“Come We Could Be Children Together” by G. Caron.....	3.00
Calendars.....	3.00



Readers Write:

NY: Dear Fr. Gerry, I recently received the list you sent of all those cured at Lourdes since 1858. My father was privileged to witness one of the miracles in 1950. My dad passed away in 1989, and for years since his passing I have so much wanted the name of the young woman he saw cured of multiple sclerosis. I have the very short movie clip of her at the hospital immediately following her cure. Imagine! My parents had decided to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1950. I have upon a very rare occasion revealed the following story as told by my father. This is the first time I have written about his special experience. One afternoon while visiting the grotto at Lourdes, my parents were trying to find a good place to overlook the afternoon blessing of the sick. Little did they know what was about to unfold before them. They ended up on a balcony watching the large number of people who had come to Lourdes. My father was drawn to a particular area for quite some time that afternoon. My father finally said to my mother, "Look Mary! Something is going on down there!" My mother saw nothing. She asked my father where he saw something. All he could say was "Right there!" My mother could not understand what commotion my father thought he saw. Suddenly a woman who appeared to be a French nurse approached my father and asked him in French, "Do you believe?" My father answered, "Yes, I believe." The woman said to my father, "Come with me." My father asked, "Where are we going?" The woman repeated with no explanation, "Come with me." My father turned to my mother and said, "Mary, come with us." My mother asked my father where they were going and he said he had no idea. They walked quite a distance. The woman stopped and asked my father a second time, "Do you believe?" My father replied, "Of course I believe." They continued walking and soon came upon a young boy who had fallen and appeared to be in need of sutures in order to close a deep cut near his eye. My father, as a physician was very concerned about the child. The woman said, "Never mind the child. The child will be taken care of." My father wanted assurance the child would be cared for. The woman convinced him someone would attend to the child. My parents and the woman continued walking. My father realized they were approaching the Lourdes Hospital. Just before entering the hospital the woman stopped momentarily one more time and asked my father, "Do you believe?" My

father, almost annoyed with the question for a third time answered, "Of course I believe. I would not be here if I did not believe." The woman then opened the door of the hospital and took my parents to the area which turned out to be the area designated for patients that have possibly been cured. She introduced my parents to a physician who was also the Hospital Director. My father told him he thought he had noticed something during the blessing of the sick. The Director said, "We believe we have had a cure." My father turned to thank the woman who had taken my parents to this very specific area of the hospital. She was gone and the Hospital Director did not know her. The Director asked my parents if they would like to meet the person who had been cured. It was Angele Thea, now Sister Marie Mercedes of Tettngang, Germany. My parents were so very moved to have this opportunity. She was a young German school teacher who had been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. When they entered her room, my father spoke to her in German, a language he also spoke fluently, "I have been watching you all afternoon." When my parents left for Europe, a friend gave my mother \$5.00 to give to a needy person. After all this was Europe just five years post World War II. Many were in need. My mother gave the money to this young girl who had just been cured so that she would be able to buy a new pair of shoes. Father, I hope you have enjoyed this account of my father's very special experience at Lourdes. The cure was recognized by the Church in 1961. I remember the day the letter arrived from the Lourdes Hospital Director, with whom my father had kept in contact, stating the acceptance by the Church. I love Our Blessed Mother very much. I say her Rosary everyday. **M.P.M.**

MA: I am writing to ask if I may have some of your Lourdes Water. I am a 31 year old single mother on disability. I was baptized a Catholic and have only returned to the Church in the past several years. I have lost so much time learning what I should know about God and Christ, and our faith. I am hoping the water can help me build my faith in my heart and mind, so strong and so solid it can never be shaken again. I am thankful for receiving your newsletter. Thank you very much and please pray for me. **N.L.**

MA: I wish to publicly express my gratitude to Our Blessed Lady for the help she gave in answering my

requests for her assistance. For the past three months, my brother suffered from a severe case of colitis after the sudden death of his only son. During this period he was unable to eat or drink and lost thirty pounds as a result. My only hope was prayer and use of Lourdes Water each day on his behalf. When he was finally hospitalized, I knew my prayers would have to be answered soon. Within days he made a remarkable recovery, being able to eat and drink for the first time in weeks. He was discharged home to continue treatment and I will continue to pray for his return to improved physical and emotional health. **M.B.**

NY: Please accept this gift for prayers answered. My doctor thought I had bone cancer and also an aneurism. After using the Lourdes Water and saying the prayers, the tests were negative. Thank you. **R.M.**

TX: I must thank our Lord and beloved Mother for such lovely miracles. We were led to a sweet lady at our Church who had cancer, and she had almost given up with all the chemo treatments she had received. My husband put Lourdes Water (which he had ordered from you) on her head and gave her your address so she could order more of the water. After ordering several bottles from you, she also gave some to her other friends. She has been going to the beautiful "Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan" here in Texas. She has regained her hair and beautiful color in her face. We continue to give out your address ad tell them about the Lourdes Water, whenever we can! There is no way we can give up such peace and contentment when we apply Lourdes Water on sick people in need. Please forgive us, we must praise the Lourdes Center and everyone there! **F & MG**

PA: I am writing to fulfill a promise to acknowledge a favor received from Our Lady. We recently received some heavy rain and had some minor basement flooding. Hurricane Frances threatened to drop considerably more in western Pennsylvania again. I prayed to Our Lady and used Lourdes Water. The heavy rains went East and West of our area and we received only moderate rain. My prayers were heard. I have been using Lourdes Water for many years following a tradition of my deceased mother. I am passing this tradition on to my adult children as well as my young grandchildren. Thank you dear Lady. **B.M.**

Lourdes Water...

**...is an expression
of my faith...
my trust in God's mercy.**

Offering to cover shipping & handling \$ _____

N.B. A donation of \$2.00 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 send _____ bottles of the water from the Shrine at Lourdes

Name (Please Print Clearly) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Does this person receive the "Echoes from Lourdes?" Yes No
If not, should we send the "Echoes?" Yes No

PLEASE ALLOW 3-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

Remembering Our Deceased

Purgatorials – for the deceased

Share in 365 daily Masses each year

Name _____

Mail to _____

Address _____

State _____ Zip _____

Requested by _____

Suggested offering: \$10.00 (perpetual)

Our Lady's Purgatorial Society

A most precious gift –
the Gift of Prayer

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 Deceased

IRENE M. HINDERS, OH
MARY ANN NOVAK, PA
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ERNEST L. HALL, IN
EDUARDO BLANCO, LA
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EMILY HANLIN, TX
THERESA RICKEY, MO
MARGARET FEENEY, MA
ADELINE PROZDAL, MA

Together in our Prayers

Please remember my intentions on:

- January 3rd:
New Year - Blessed Year
- February 11th:
Our Lady of Lourdes
- Thursday: Perpetual Novena
to Our Lady of Lourdes
- First Fridays: Cancer and
Life-threatening diseases
- At Daily Masses:
(Living and Deceased)

Intentions _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

- Please indicate here if offering is enclosed. Thank you. God Bless.

Director: Rev. Gerard Demers, S.M.
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Published monthly to promote
devotion of Our Lady and interest in
her shrine at Lourdes.

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