

Echoes from Lourdes

"The Power of a Smile"

by Fr. Roland Lacasse, S.M.

One of the things that struck me, as I read St. Bernadette's account of the apparitions at Lourdes, is the number of times the Blessed Virgin smiled at St. Bernadette, on various occasions.

This may sound like a trivial thing, but when Mother Teresa of Calcutta remarked one day "No one knows the Power of a smile", it suddenly struck me there are many ways we can reach out to others, non-verbal but real nonetheless.

In my own life, I remember vividly an occasion when I was feeling low one day and someone smiled at me. It made all the difference in the world!

On another occasion, I was in a NYC subway. I happened to look across the aisle, where an elderly



lady was sitting. She looked so alone in her little world, and I smiled at her by way of encouragement, as our eyes met. When she got up to leave, she pressed a dollar bill in my hand, without saying a word! Sometimes,

the rewards for doing good deeds are truly tangible and immediate!

When Mary smiled at Bernadette 3 or 4 times, in the course of her 18 apparitions, you can be sure that her smile was real, not forced. Some people smile with their lips, but their eyes are cold as ice. The warmth of Mary's love for Bernadette was reflected in Mary's eyes, as well as her lips.

As devout Catholics, we can appreciate the Blessed Virgin Mary as no one else can. The warmth of her love for us comes as no surprise. It is very likely that Mother Teresa of Calcutta was prompted to say what she said, as a result of her intimate acquaintance with the Blessed Virgin Mary. Indeed, no one knows the power of a smile.

Make a Pilgrimage to Lourdes

Make a Pilgrimage of Faith
May 9 - 17th, 2006
All Inclusive \$1,898.00

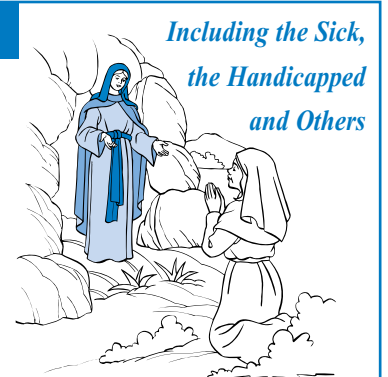
Deadline for registration is March 2nd, 2006

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 _____



New Lourdes Center Web-site!

www.LourdesCenter.org

We are pleased to introduce LourdesCenter.org – our new web-site! We are overjoyed about using technology to enhance our Mission for promoting a loving devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes, and distributing Lourdes Water.

Today, hosting a web-site is the best way to let others know who you are, share information, and communicate with friends. Please know the LourdesCenter.org web-site will not replace Echoes from Lourdes.

LourdesCenter.org includes:

- ▶ History of the Lourdes Center.
- ▶ Information about Our Lady of Lourdes & St. Bernadette.
- ▶ Opportunity to order Lourdes Water on-line.
- ▶ Lourdes Prayers & information about Lourdes Water.
- ▶ Opportunity to submit personal Prayers Intentions.
- ▶ Echoes from Lourdes newsletter.
- ▶ Information on Pilgrimages to Lourdes, France.

You can now order Lourdes Water on the web-site, and

donations for Lourdes Water are made using a credit card. Credit card transactions are completely protected and secure. LourdesCenter.org will allow the Lourdes Center to:

- ▶ Receive your request for Lourdes Water immediately and deliver to you faster than ever before!
- ▶ Immediately accept your Prayer Intentions and Affiliations.
- ▶ Share your Lourdes Water testimony using the Forum. The Forum is an electronic version of "Readers Write" in the "Echoes". Here you can share your story, publicly thank Our Lady of Lourdes for favors received, and receive inspiration and hope from others who benefit from the use of Lourdes Water.
- ▶ Make available past issues of Echoes from Lourdes.

Please call us if you have questions about LourdesCenter.org, or have recommendations for improving the web-site. Share with your friends and enjoy!

Yours in Jesus & Mary,

Fr. Normand Martin, S.M.
Director

Miracle # 44 Louise Jamain

Everybody had died... now her turn?

Born: November 1, 1914.
Cured: April 1, 1937, aged 22 years.



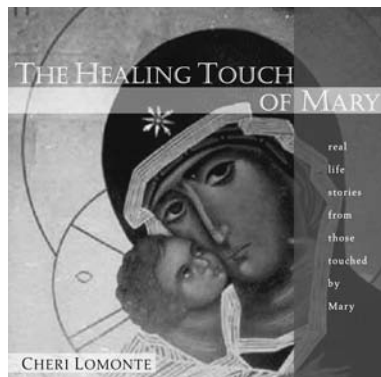
Miracle recognized December 14, 1951.

The Laennac hospital was formal: "Peritoneal, intestinal and pulmonary Tuberculosis." But this medical certificate, was for her whole family. In fact Louise was an orphan, her mother and four brothers had all died of Tuberculosis. Paradoxically, she felt she had been waiting for her turn for too long, she had been hospitalized with the illness for nearly seven years! In total desperation she expressed the desire to go to Lourdes. In spite of the advice of all her doctors, who didn't think she would come back alive, she took part in the Bernadette Pilgrimage from March 28th to April 4th, 1937. The journey and the first days were awful and she was given the Last Rights on March 30th. And then on the morning of April 1st she felt totally rested and asked to eat something. There was no doubt of a

cure. During a Mass she attended on April 4th in Paris, there was surprise! There were no more lesions, no infection could be found. Six weeks later Louise found a job. Some years later she became Madame Maitre, then a mother of two children.



The Healing Touch of Mary, by Cheri Lomonte, is a new book that shares published testimonials from Echoes from Lourdes. This is an extraordinary book that communicates the grace of



inspiration and hope with every personal story. Sales of the book benefit the Lourdes Center. Please call 1-800-682-1729 to place your order. Makes a great Christmas Gift!

A Prayer

Dear Lord,

So far today, God, I've done alright. I haven't gossiped, haven't lost my temper, haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or over-indulgent, and I'm very grateful for that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on, I'm going to need a lot more help. Amen.

Available from the Lourdes Center

- Crystal Rosaries (with water from Lourdes) (rose, blue, clear black).....\$6.85
- Brown or Green Scapulars.....2.00
- O.L. Lourdes or St. Bernadette pins.....3.50
- Lourdes Grotto medal and chain.....3.00

Readers Write:

IL: Thank you for publishing a portion of Fr. Ron Saunders letter concerning his illness. Many years ago Father Ron wrote a column entitled "Inner Echoes" in your publication "Echoes from Lourdes." I saved all of them and to this day I have read and re-read them for spiritual help. I am indebted to Fr. Ron and to you for all the encouragement, hope and deep trust I have received from them. Now I hope that I will receive these same blessings by reading and re-reading the paragraphs in April's 'Echoes'. I had surgery in March for recurring breast cancer, followed by six weeks of radiation since the surgeon couldn't get all the cells removed. I am sending a gift in gratitude to Father Ron and you. I will always remember and pray for him. **E.G.**

WI: Dear Fr., just a note to thank you for that lovely pilgrimage to Lourdes in May. An interesting event happened with a marriage that was breaking up, and the wife filing papers for a divorce. My friend sent a picture of the family with a request on the back for prayers to Our Lady of Lourdes, to please heal the marriage. I touched the family picture to the grotto wall all along the way and dropped the picture in the petition box behind the altar at the grotto during our pilgrimage in May. Today this friend called and said that her daughter is back home with her husband and children. A lot of prayers are still needed but it's a positive start. Thanks to Our Lady of Lourdes. Hoping you are all settled in. ...Your sense of humor was enjoyed by all of us. Blessings to you. **E.S**

IN: Please accept this gift in thanksgiving for a favor received from our Blessed Mother Mary. Last October my wife had a colon procedure which resulted in an excellent outcome. We thank Mary and you for your prayers. Continue to remember us in your

prayers. God bless you.

H.H.
IL: My family and I are grateful to God, Our Blessed Mother and St. Bernadette for many favors and blessings over the years. My daughter and I had the special blessing to be at Lourdes in July, 1985, on the anniversary of the last apparition of our Blessed Lady to St. Bernadette. While there, I had a dream in which I saw a girl I had worked with, Nora, walking. I had been praying for Nora to walk again. She had been confined to a wheelchair after removal of a tumor from her spine. When we got back to the USA, I received a phone call from Nora, she drove her car over to my house and walked up the stairs into my house! Her doctor, the neurosurgeon who operated on Nora, has it on her medical record that Nora began walking in the USA when I had the dream at Lourdes on July 16, 1985. Heaven is close to us and Jesus' Mother Mary is our Mother too! **M.C.**

CA: I would love to publish that my miracle from God and Mother Mary was that our marriage has been saved! Please pray for us. **D.P.**

NJ: I have been using Lourdes Water for a good many years on various parts of my body. I am an 85 year old diabetic, and have been cautioned by Doctors to be very careful of injuries to my feet. One day last week when arising from bed, I put on my slippers and suddenly felt a sharp pain in one of my small toes to the point of laming me when I tried to walk. I immediately applied Lourdes Water and said the prayers. Shortly after, when walking, I only felt a little pain and no limping. As the day progressed the pain abated entirely and upon examination, the redness and swelling had gone down. I had promised Our Lady that I would write to tell you about this event if she took care of my

toe, which of course she did. Please accept the small enclosed donation, and I give my thanks to Our Lady and St. Bernadette for their help. Please pray for me. **E.Y.**

OH: I had a small lump inside of my cheek. They did surgery and a biopsy test and it was benign. This is a donation for a good report. I am thankful. **E.B.**

WA: My brother has been using Lourdes water and his tumor has shrunk. I used it on a tumor I had and it was diagnosed as benign. We thank our blessed Mother for her care and blessings. Thank you for the work you do. **S.M.**

WA: Special thanks for receiving the "Echoes of Lourdes." I really enjoy the Newsletter. Enclosed is a gift. Thank you. **C.T.**

Affiliations – for Living

**Remembrance in 50 Masses
yearly and at our
weekly Perpetual Novena**
(Please Print Clearly)

Requested by: _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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

Our Deceased

PORTER DONOVAN, LA
 HENRY DOMALSKI, NJ
 MARGARET ANTAYA, MA
 SR. LINA HEBEIN, WI
 CATHERINE M. MARCH, PA
 SR. IRENE BEAUCHEMIN, MA
 IRENE HOLMES, NH
 NORMA STUCKENBERG, OH
 IRENE TYSIAC, NY
 OLGA GRUBER, CA
 GRACE LYONS, MT
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Together in our Prayers

Please remember my intentions on:

- November 1st
Holy Souls
- December 8th
Immaculate Conception
- 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.

The Charitable Gift Annuity

The Gift that Gives... to You!

The Lourdes Center now offers Charitable Gift Annuities.

Receive an income for life while contributing to the Lourdes Center.

For information on how a Charitable Gift Annuity may benefit you and the

Lourdes Center, please email the Marist Fathers: marist@charter.net

or call at 508-879-7223.

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