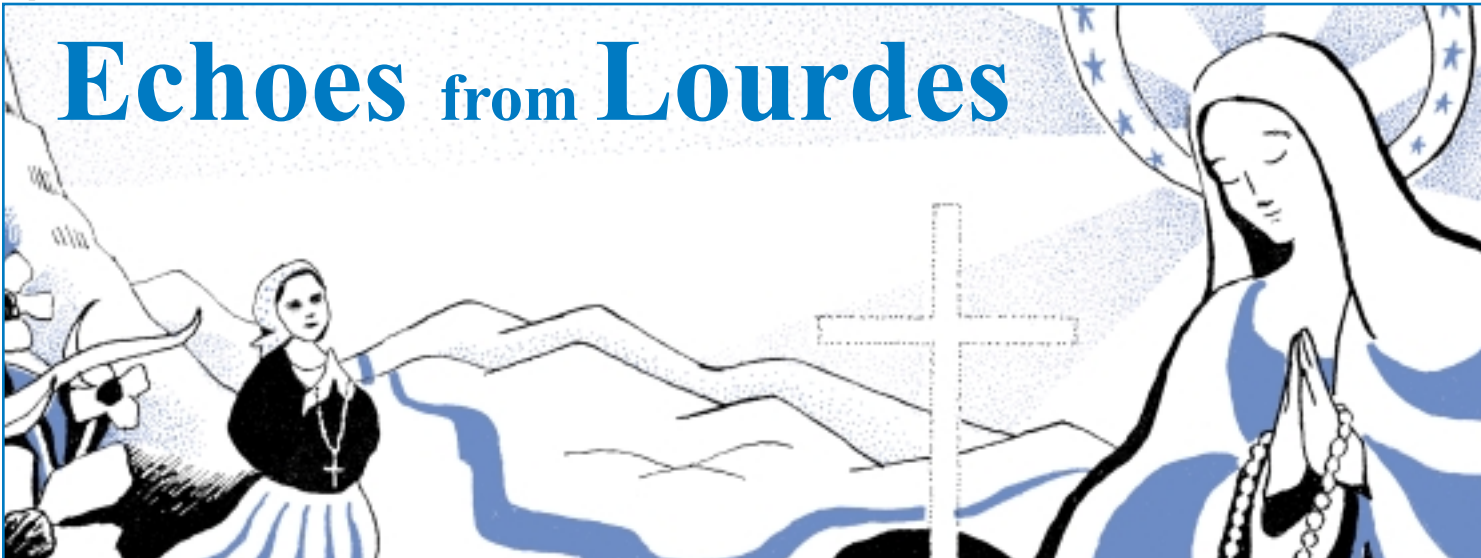


# Echoes from Lourdes



## A Personal Reflection on Mary in My Life

When I was a boy, lightning struck my home. At the time, we were gathered around the kitchen table, on our knees saying the Rosary, praying to Our Lady for protection from the storm. Our prayers were answered because no damage was done. The flame that danced between the curtains, as a result of the lightning strike, was quickly extinguished by my mother.

Devotion to our Blessed mother was part of our lives, when I was growing up. Every year, during the month of May, I would set up a shrine to Our Lady in my bedroom. The statue of Mary which I used in that shrine, I still treasure. It occupies a prominent place in my personal living quarters here at the Lourdes Center in Boston.

As a Marist priest for over 45 years, I look back and recall with gratitude how the Blessed Mother helped me to become the person I am today. I am sure that the people who are fortunate enough to go to Lourdes on Pilgrimage



share with me the profound appreciation of the place of Mary in my life. We who are devoted to Our Lady experience the warmth of her maternal love, and we are enriched by that love and concern for us. It is so much a part of our lives as Catholics, this devotion to Mary. When people tell me that

they are thinking of leaving the Catholic faith, I say to them, "For what? It's a wasteland out there in the world."

St. Bernadette taught us the beauty and the wisdom of staying close to Mary, and allowing Mary to become a part of our Lives. Pity those who go through life without God and His Blessed Mother. They help us to cope with road rage, terrorism, and personal problems that are part of everyday living. How people can go through life without religion is a mystery to me!

- Fr. Roland Lacasse, S.M.

### The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Feast Day • September 8th

Thy birth, O Virgin Mother of God,  
heralded joy to all the world.  
For from thou hast risen the Sun of justice,  
Christ our God.  
Destroying the curse, He gave blessing;  
and damning death, He bestowed on us  
life everlasting.  
Blessed art thou among women  
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.  
For from thou hast risen of Sun of justice,  
Christ our God.

- from The Divine Office - Matins (Morning Prayer)

### Next Lourdes Pilgrimage

May 9-17, 2006

Registration Deadline:

March 2, 2006



## Lourdes Miracle # 23

*Jeanne Tulasne - What to do when the spinal column is attacked as well.*

*Born: September 8, 1877 in Tours, France Cured: September 8, 1897.*

*Miracle recognized October 27, 1907 by Mgr. Rene Renou, Archbishop of Tours.*

The destruction of two or three vertebrae, an abscess on the back of the left thigh, muscular atrophy and clubfoot what a list! Jeanne, practically still an adolescent felt as if she was being attacked everywhere. Since the illness hit her spinal column, she had low morale. A true professional, her doctor put her desperate state down in black and white on August 7, 1879. So Jeanne arrived in Lourdes with her diocesan pilgrimage at the beginning of September in a very bad way. On September 8th, the day of her 20th birthday, she took part in the Blessed Sacrament Procession.

It was the Bishop of her diocese who carried the monstrance. And then, all of a sudden she felt cured. Examined at the Medical Bureau the next morning and also the following year, the doctors confirmed the durability of the complete, sudden and lasting cure from a long developed Pott's disease. The Archbishop of Tours will judge that the "Cure of Jeanne Tulasne which had taken place ten years earlier as the Blessed Sacrament passed by, was a miraculous cure."

## Bernadette's Personal Notes

*(Personal notes written by St. Bernadette during a retreat in September, 1874. From the archives of Saint Gildard's Convent in Nevers, France.)*

Do not fear, always remain close to Our Lord in the Tabernacle. Bury yourself deeply there, and never leave it. Pray to Our Lady to keep you well hidden there. Consider this good Master; He suffers greatly in silence, He does not even move, although He could reduce everything to nothing. Follow His example with courage and generously carry the cross hidden in your heart and this for the love of Jesus.

The principal grace to ask for during the retreat: to live more and more hidden after the example of Jesus and Mary. Remind yourself often of the words uttered by the

Blessed Virgin: Penance! Penance! You should be the first to put this into practice. In order to do so, suffer all that may come from the Sisters in silence, for this intention, so that Jesus and Mary may be glorified. Ask Our Lord and the Blessed Virgin to make known to you the cross you are being asked to carry this year. Bear it with love, fidelity and generosity. Every evening, return it to Our Lord, who will give it back to you every morning when you wake. Receive it always with love and generosity. This cross will be your glory and consolation.

That is to say, do all our actions with a desire to please Our Lord, in a spirit of faith. The more we die on the cross, the more glorious our resurrection will be. What folly to turn in on oneself when Our Lord asks for our hand to be nailed to the cross! From now on, the more I am crucified the more

I shall rejoice.

### 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

**"Bernadette"**  
by Fr. John Lynch, SM.....2.00

**"Lourdes and Our Lady"** by  
Rev. John W. Lynch, S.M....\$2.00

**"Joseph The Carpenter"**  
by G. Caron.....3.00

**"Come We Could Be  
Children Together"**  
by G. Caron.....3.00

## Readers Write:

**IL:** I have been using the Lourdes Water for many years. In January I discovered that my breast cancer which was in remission for 7 years had returned full blown. After radiation treatments and a 25 day hospital stay, I was very weak and quite ill. To add to the discomfort, I had a Crohns attack which is also a very debilitating disease. I had a special scan conducted and they announced that my cancer was in remission once more. The Lourdes Water I applied 3 or 4 times each day, worked its miracle on my body. Now all we have to do is get my Crohns under control with the aid of the Lourdes Water. I receive ten bottles of Lourdes Water at a time because I send them to people who are suffering form all kinds of illness. My sister had breast cancer and also two friends, they can not do without Lourdes water. They have all been in remission for over 15 years, isn't that great! I have always been very devoted to Our Lady of Lourdes. I attended Lourdes High School, and when my son died after 17 years in a coma the Blessed Mother came to escort him to Heaven on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, 1994. When he died on that day, I felt secure that he was with her in Heaven and my grief was relieved somewhat. My husband and I had 14 children, and now have 23 grandchildren. We are passing on our devotion to Mary to them. Thank you for supplying us with this precious water and continue to pray for us. God Bless you all. **V.B.**

**NJ:** Thank you for the information on enrollments for the deceased. I am

including the names of my mother and father, brother and my husband's parents and brother. Thank you for all the Masses and prayers said on behalf of our loved ones. **J.G.**

**MI:** Thank you for my previous order of Lourdes Water. Your prayers are greatly needed. I am now on a new chemotherapy. God Bless everyone, my faith in Our Lady of Lourdes gives me happiness I have never known. **O.T**

**TX:** I want to thank Our Lady of Lourdes for being so good to me and my brother this past year. My brother had lymphoma, stage three, and was treated with chemotherapy. After months of stress and a lot of prayers, he is now cancer-free! Praise the Lord! I was diagnosed with breast cancer in May, 2004, and it was stage one. I had lumpectomy surgery and follow up radiation, 32 treatments. My last mammography in May, 2005, now shows that the cancer is all gone. Praise God! However, I am still taking anti-cancer drugs so that it does not return, which have a lot of side effects and make my life quite miserable. I am thankful to God and Our Lady of Lourdes for always coming to my rescue. I use the Lourdes Water and drink it and I know some day I will feel well again. Please continue your prayers for us, the Lord bless you and your workers, and keep you healthy and happy in your work. We would not be able to do without your prayers and Lourdes Water. Please remember that! **Miss M.G.L.**

**PA:** Father, I feel that I have been blessed by using Lourdes Water. I

have been having health problems for quite some time, no doctor could pin point my problem. I always drank the Lourdes Water and placed myself in the hands of Our Lady. Finally everything came to a head, I had an ulcer that burst and I had to have emergency surgery. I know Our Blessed Lady is with me always even when I don't feel the greatest. Thank you Dear Lady of Lourdes for everything. **J.T.**

**PA:** I use the Lourdes Water everyday. I bless my body and take a sip to keep me healthy in my soul and spirit. It always seems to work. Thank you, Mary, Our Mother. **N.S.**

**ME:** Thanks so much for the wonderful Lourdes Water. I have given many bottles away. Now that I am starting to have some problems I am using the Lourdes Water and Our Lady is so good to help me. I will be 80 in September. Thank you so much. **Geraldine**

**MA:** Enclosed is a small offering for the Blessed Mother for the many prayers she has answered for me — and I am sure she will continue to help me. I am 93 years old and at this writing not feeling very well, but always thanking Our Blessed Mother and her Divine Son for taking care of me. Please pray for me as I shall for you and your work at the Lourdes Center. **A.G.**

**NY:** For so many years, for one reason or another, I have not contributed to your cause. Saying thanks for your wondrous work please find a small contribution. May the Lord shine eternal on all of you. **B.H.**

### 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

DANIEL P. ORTIZ, WA  
 ALMA KASPER, FL  
 MICHAEL ALMEIDA, HI  
 JOSEPHINE BELLO, NY  
 ROBERT F. SHERIDAN, PA  
 MARION PIASEDKI, MN  
 ROSITA RUIZ, FL  
 CORINNE J. HOULIHAN, MN  
 FRANK J. CONWAY, NY  
 MARY C. AHERN, AR  
 REV. KEN MORVANT, LA  
 HELEN WERNER, FL  
 MARGUERITE GRIBBLE, MN  
 MARIE C. ALBERS, WI  
 MARY C. NOVAK, MN  
 WILLIAM NOVAK, MN  
 HERBERT DUQUETTE, MN  
 ISABEL DUQUETTE, MN  
 JOHN KIJOWSKI, PA  
 SR. ELLEN RYAN, WI

MARY CALANTINO, IL  
 LUZ F. RIDRIGUEZ, TX  
 TONI MAJERCAK, NJ  
 RUTH E. GIESE, MO  
 RUTH LEES, MD  
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 E. SEEHOF, NB  
 MARY ANNE CAMERON, NS  
 GRACIELLA SPENCER, TX  
 BARBARA GILCHRIST, KS  
 JULIA KONRAD, OH

## Together in our Prayers

Please remember my intentions on:

- September 8th:  
Blessed Mother's Birthday
- October 10th:  
Holy Rosary
- Thursday: Perpetual Novena  
to Our Lady of Lourdes
- First Fridays: Cancer and  
Life-threatening diseases
- At Daily Masses:  
(Living and Deceased)

Intentions

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Name

---

Address

---



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City

---

State

Zip

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- 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](mailto:marist@charter.net)

or call at 508-879-7223.

## Echoes from Lourdes

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