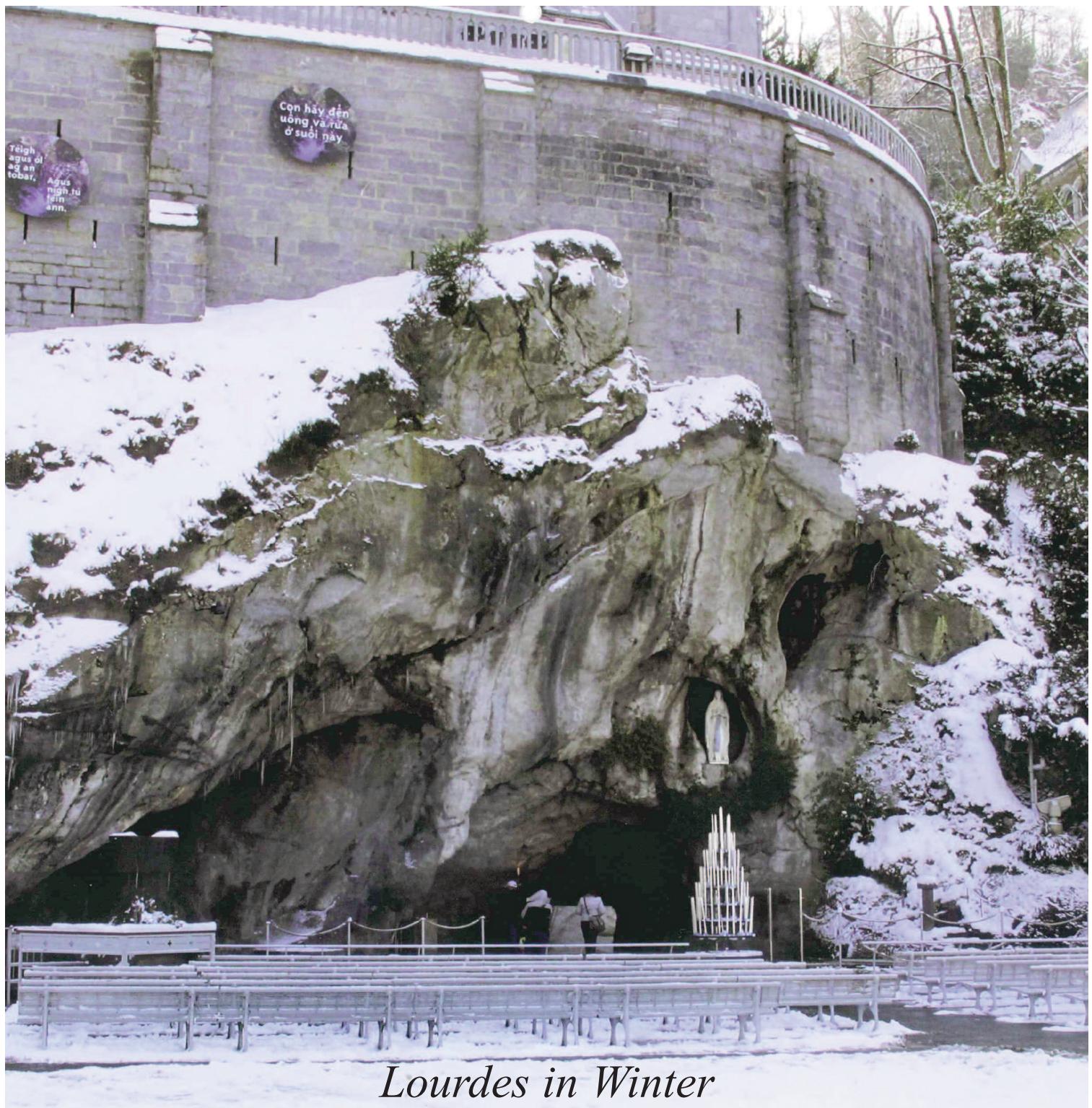


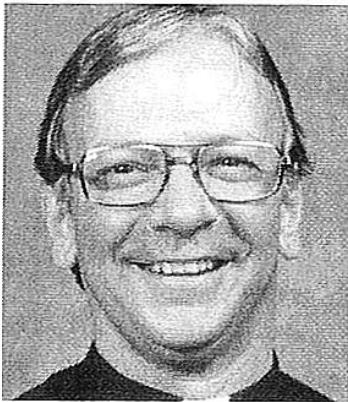
November-December 2014

Vol. 77 No. 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER • THE MARIST FATHERS & BROTHERS



Lourdes in Winter



REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

Here we are with Thanksgiving just around the corner. We know that winter and snow will be with us.

I chose this wintry scene of Lourdes on the first page for a reason. Although most pilgrimages to Lourdes take place from March to November, Lourdes is open year round and Lourdes does have winter and snow!

Matter of fact it was on February 11, 1858 in the dead of winter that the first apparition of the Blessed Mother took place. St. Bernadette, her sister Toinette, and a friend Jeanne had gone to the wooded area along the Gave River to gather fallen branches for their father to help heat the place where they lived. They had to cross a brook to get the wood so Toinette and Jeanne took off their shoes and socks to wade across. St. Bernadette had an asthmatic condition and so was leery of doing the same, but there was no other option. St. Bernadette sat down on a log to remove her shoes and socks. That's when she heard a strong wind. She looked up and saw nothing. Then there was another gust of wind and she saw a bunch of brambles and branches shaking wildly at the base of a grotto. And then in the grotto she saw a beautiful lady. She could not believe her eyes. She rubbed them vig-

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

orously, but the lady was still there.

The lady was dressed in a white gown and veil with a blue sash at her waist and she carried a rosary of white beads on a gold chain. She was barefoot except for a yellow rose on each foot. Frightened, Bernadette reached in her pocket for her rosary beads. While Bernadette told her beads, the lady let hers slip through her fingers, her lips motionless. Once the beads were over, the lady beckoned Bernadette to come over but Bernadette did not dare, and the lady disappeared. The lady had not spoken a single word. That was the first apparition. There would be 17 more apparitions, and only Bernadette saw the apparitions, no one else.

And that apparition happened on February 11, 1858 in the middle of winter!

Thank you so much for your generous response to my appeal to repair Mary's east wall. So far we have received over 37,240 dollars. Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond my control we could not do the work this fall. The work will be done first thing in the spring. The total cost will be about \$55,000. I am grateful for all donations no matter the amount. Let's pray that Mary will touch the hearts of some people who can give a major donation, a spiritual investment in her work here at the Lourdes Center.

We have daily Mass in our beautiful chapel dedicated to Our Lady of

Lourdes. If you would like one of those Masses specifically offered for one of your loved ones, living or dead, send the request directly to me. We announce the name of the person or the intention requested at the beginning of the Mass. The offering is \$10 dollars.

Our beautiful 2015 calendars are now available.

My sincere thanks to all those who have sent me the names of new readers of the Echoes of Lourdes. Mary wanted St. Bernadette to spread the good news of God's love and mercy. Pope Francis often speaks of mercy and asks us to help be apostles of the great mercy of God.

Such a spiritual gift! Making others more aware of the great miracle of Lourdes is a wonderful gift! May you enjoy Thanksgiving with your family and friends and may your Christmas be a holy and joyful one!

God bless you all,

Fr. Albert



Our email address is:
ourlady@lourdescenter.org
lourdescenter@yahoo.com

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

Joy

The Secret to Evangelization and More Vocations

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

last year wrote “You want to evangelize? Make your faith a happy faith, and share it.” I would add, “You want more vocations? Encourage priests and Religious to be more joyful in their dealings with people.” Some people say, “Our joy as Christians is interior.” To which I say, “If it’s real, it will show itself externally.”

In my work here at the Lourdes Center in Boston, I have learned a great deal about St. Bernadette and what kind of a person she was. Fr. Rene Laurentin, an authority on St. Bernadette, in his excellent book, “Bernadette of Lourdes,” wrote as follows: “Bernadette’s gaiety got

Tom Sheridan, in an article written for “The Pilot,” America’s oldest Catholic newspaper,



**IF YOUR JOY
IS REAL,
IT WILL
SHOW
ITSELF
EXTERNALLY.**

her over the trials and tests (of Novitiate.) She had a ready laugh, and her blunders as a novice gave her many occasions to exercise it.”

My favorite Saints are St. John Bosco and St. Philip Neri. What attracted me to them was their joyful approach to people. A sad Saint is a sorry Saint. The father of a newly ordained priest is reported to have given his son the following advice on his day of Ordination, “Son, when you preach, don’t make people sad. They have enough to feel sad about already.” I enjoy it when I hear people brag about their priests. One lady said, “Our pastor always begins his sermon with a story, often a humorous story.” Good for him!

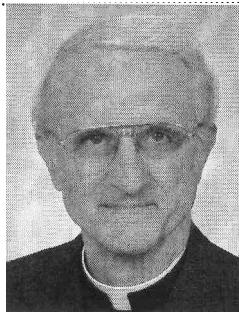
Some people say, “Jesus never laughed.” Maybe so, but I’ll bet He came close to it. The Apostles were far from perfect when Jesus called them to follow Him. Once, they even forgot to bring food along when they accompanied Jesus on one of His speaking engagements. He could have become angry with them saying, “What’s the matter

Continued on page 5

THE THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY

Holy Spirit Descends on the Apostles

Acts 2, 1-4



When Jesus was about to depart from this world to be with his Father in Heaven he promised to send us the Holy Spirit: "...you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you." Acts 1,8 This promise was fulfilled on Pentecost Sunday.

Empowerment Given to the Church

The Holy Spirit comes to empower members of Church, the Body of Christ. As ancient Israel was founded on twelve sons of Israel, so now the new Israel, the Church, is founded on the Twelve Apostles. From Pentecost Sunday to the present day the Holy Spirit has remained within the Church.

The Ministry of Jesus Continues

What Jesus did during his three years of ministry in the flesh he continues to do so in the power of the Spirit until the end of time, "I will be with you always until the end of time." Matthew 28, 20. As Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit at the beginning of his public ministry, see Luke 3, 21-22, and throughout his life

on earth, see Luke 4, 14-15, so now the Church, the Body of Christ has been empowered by the same Holy Spirit to perpetuate the commands of Jesus to baptize, forgive sins, heal the sick, confirm his disciples, bless marriages, celebrate the Eucharist, and ordain men for service in the Church. All of which is especially seen in the celebration of the seven sacraments.

Baptism

"...Amen, amen, I say to you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and the Holy Spirit." John 3, 5. You must not think that the Holy Spirit comes down from above when the words of Baptism are spoken, "I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." The Spirit emanates not from above, which already took place at Pentecost, but from within the Church where the Spirit is now and has been ever since!

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

Jesus greets his apostles on Easter Sunday morning with,

"Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." He breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retained are retained." John 20, 22. Jesus forgave sins in the past (Luke 7, 36-50) and he does so now through his Holy Spirit dwelling in the Church, the Body of Christ. This is carried on through the ministry of the priest. Notice the referencing of the Holy Spirit in the formula of absolution:

"God the Father of mercies through the death and resurrection of His Son has reconciled the world to Himself and sent the Holy Spirit among us for the forgiveness of sins; through the ministry of the Church may God give you pardon and peace, and I absolve you from your sins in the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Amen.

Continued on page 7

Fr. LaCasse

Continued from page 3

with you people? Do I have to do everything myself?" Instead, He performed a miracle and multiplied the small amount of food someone had brought along.

I believe that people tell us who we really are. One day, a priest who had just finished saying Mass was approached by someone who had attended his Mass. She asked him, "Father, how did you ever become a priest? You're so joyful!" The priest was taken aback by the question, and didn't quite know what to

make of it. The woman's idea of most priests was obviously that most priests were serious individuals who did not project the kind of joy that St. John Bosco and St. Philip Neri projected. That's too bad, because in my humble opinion, that's the kind of priests we need more of today.

St. Bernadette was a fun-loving country girl who did not like to be told what to do. She found convent living to be quite difficult, at times. But grace is stronger than nature,

and by the grace of God she persevered until death in the life she had chosen after the Blessed Mother had appeared to her no less than 18 times in all.

Gift Center

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

Order from The Lourdes Center

2015 Wall Calendar (Limited Supply).....\$4.00

Our Lady of Lourdes Medal in Grotto.....\$5.00

Brown Scapular.....\$2.00

Green Scapular.....\$2.00

St. Bernadette pins.....\$3.50

Our Lady of Lourdes pins.....\$3.50

Booklet: "Lourdes and Our Lady"
by Fr. John Lynch, S.M.....\$4.00

Booklet: "Come, We Could Be Children Together,"
by Fr. G. Caron,S.M.....\$3.00



Lourdes Center Chapel, Boston

Please send your order with payment to: Lourdes Bureau Gift Center,
P.O. Box 15575, 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594.

Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone # _____

Requested by: _____

Suggested offering: \$10.00 (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.

Readers Write

N.H. I am writing to seek your continued prayer for spiritual and physical healing for my wife, who has COPD, and is currently in a rehab program. She has suffered many losses in her life, including the loss of a child. I am particularly concerned that she will not lose faith in Christ's love for her and will come to know that suffering has value. She was not raised Catholic. May our Lord and His Mother continue to bless your work at the Lourdes Center. **NY**

M.D. This check is an offering for all of the many times the Blessed Mother and St. Bernadette have answered my prayers. **PA**

E.R. I have been in pain for various ailments for the last 20 years and want to share that it is a joy to recite the Rosary. One night I rubbed Lourdes water on and around the area of my face that was hurting and said a short prayer for healing. Why are we always surprised when our prayers are answered? Thank you, sweet Mother Mary. She does hear our sighs and is our gracious advocate. **NY**

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.

HARVERY WALKER, JR., MO
LOUIS R. ROY, RI
DOROTHY HUNINGHAK, KS
TERESA SMITH, NV
MARY JANE DEMCHAK, PA
DENNIS ROGERS, WA
AIDA L. KAMKOSS, AK
LARRY LADNER, MS
MILRED MARTIN, MI
SR. ANTOIN DRUAN, CA
CARL PFLUGEL, IL
ROSIE CASHEL, TX
MARY EVERES, CA
MERVIN BRILLHART, CA
JULIA TEGETHOFF, NY
REV. ROBERT FAHEY, CA
MARTHA WAGNER, SC
ELEANOR ROBINSON, CA
FRANCIS WANJA, NM
HENRY F. VALENTA, TX
GLORIA BACK
BR. ROLAND BERNIER, S.M., MA
REV. NICHOLAS KUTULAS, S.M., CA
MARY HALL, ME
ROSE VUOLO, NY
DOLORES VALENZUELA, CA
ROSE JOINER
HILDA CAIRE, LA

GINA BOSTIK, DE
CONNIE REED, TX
IRMA PELTIER, LA
ELSIE COLON, NY
LYNN TOUPS, FL
HELEN FINIS, MN
MARY K. MURPHY, MO
ROSE ANNA LOUVIERE, LA
CLARA MCCAFFERTY, OH
JAMES MCCAFFERTY, WV
CATHERINE TOTOIV, NC
RUTH KOWEISKI, MI
RITA ROY, NY
MARGARET LANYI, PA
BERNADETTE HIGGASON, OH
MARY O'NEIL CARTER, MD
FRANCES W. GRAYSON, GA
LORI MILLER, LA
IRMA PELTIER, LA
PATRICK O'MALLEY, OH
JAMES PEPPING, CA
BERNICE GIANELONE, LA
MARGARET ADAMS, CA
CHARLOTTE MARVIN, FL
MARGARET DEAN, NJ
KATHLEEN FREDERICK, IA
HOWARD LEFEVRE, MI
REGINA ANTOWIAK, TX



Do you know someone who would like to receive Echoes from Lourdes? Give them a **FREE SUBSCRIPTION!**
*Send their names and addresses.
Use a separate sheet if necessary.*

E-mail the information to: ourlady@lourdescenter.org

MAIL it to:
Lourdes Center
P.O. Box 15575
698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

Fr. Grispino

Continued from page 5

Sacrament of the Sick

Jesus, during his days on earth, cured the sick. He continues to do the same in the Sacrament of the Sick. It was once called the Last Rites. No longer. The sick person need not be at the point of death to receive this holy anointing. The formula used today over the sick person has its roots in James' Letter 5, 13-15. The use of anointing with oil recalls the gift of the Holy Spirit "...God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power.

He went about doing good and healing all...for God was with him." Acts 10, 38. God is still with Christ, his Body, the Church, when this sacrament is celebrated.

Confirmation

John the Baptist prophesied, "I



Mass taking place at Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel here at the Lourdes Center in Boston.

baptize you in water. One who comes after me will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire. This prophecy was fulfilled on Pentecost Sunday, "...there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 2, 2-4. The Spirit given at Pentecost is the

same Spirit given at Confirmation. Among the many gifts of the Holy Spirit granted to us to strengthen and complete our rootedness in Christ at baptism is the gift of fortitude which strengthens us to be witnesses of Christ.

*Continued in our
January issue*

Affiliations

Remembrance in 50 Masses yearly and at our weekly Perpetual Novena

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

Requested by:

Phone No:

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 \$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 send _____ bottles of the
water from the Shrine at Lourdes**

Name _____
(Please Print Clearly)

Address _____

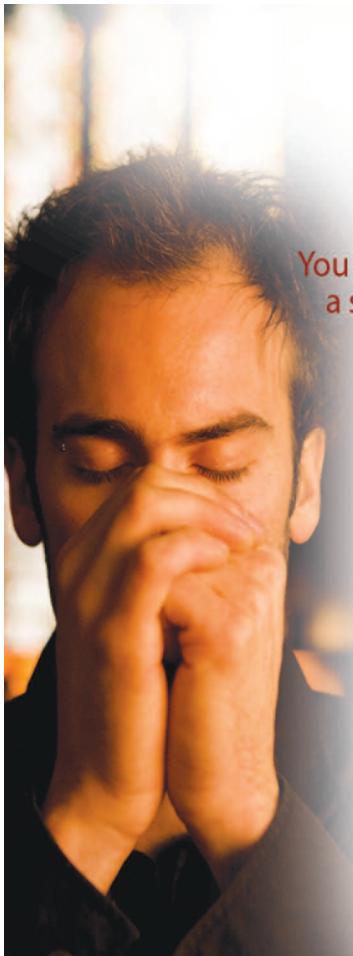
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Does this person receive Lourdes Echoes?
____ Yes ____ No

If not, should we send Lourdes Echoes to them?
____ Yes ____ No

PLEASE ALLOW 3-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



On Friday, November 14 & Friday, November 28
and Friday, December 12 & Friday, December 26,
The Marist Fathers & Brothers 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 special prayer day when we say special prayers and offer Mass at our chapel for our extended Lourdes family ... including you.

Please send us your intentions:

Please direct your intentions, and any offering you'd like to send, to: Marist Fathers, 698 Beacon Street, P.O. Box 15575, Boston, MA 02215-0010 • 617-536-2761.

Printed with Ecclesiastical Approval
Ass't. Director: Rev. Roland Lacasse, S.M.
Director: Rev. Andrew Alber, S.M.

Published bi-monthly to promote devotion
of Our Lady and interest in her shrine at
Lourdes

Lourdes Echoes

Address Service Requested

Lourdes Centre
Marist Fathers
Lourdes Bureau
P.O. Box 15575
998 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02215-2594
617-536-2761
www.lourdescentre.org
OurLady@lourdescentre.org

