

Lourdes Echoes

May-June 2015

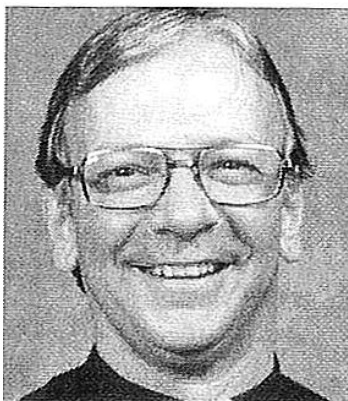
Vol. 78 No. 1

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



“Go tell the priests to build a Chapel at the Grotto.”

— WHAT MARY SAID TO BERNADETTE DURING ONE OF THE 18 APPARITIONS.



REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

It is good to be in the wonderful month of May. The month dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Our cover features a beautiful picture of Our Lady of Lourdes at the grotto. The words, "QUE SOY ERA IMMACULADA COUNCEPCIOU" are what Mary said when Bernadette, at the request of her pastor, asked the beautiful lady what her name was. Mary answered in the local dialect that Bernadette knew. It's a mixture of French and Spanish. Lourdes is located at the foot of the Pyrenees mountains close to Spain.

After the snowiest winter on record (110 inches) and one of the coldest, Boston is once again enjoying the warm breezes of May. My sincere thanks to all of you who sent donations in the "Heating" envelope. We received \$9,300. Your support is crucial and most appreciated.

We must all pray for an end to the terrible drought in California. Many of our readers and supporters are from that beautiful state. Our winter problems melted away with relatively little damage, but California's problem will take much longer to solve. They need rain and lots of snow in the Sierra mountains. Let's keep that intention in our

prayers.

I continue to encourage you to have Masses said in our beautiful chapel. They can be for living or deceased members of your family. They may be in Thanksgiving for favors received or for a cure for a loved one. Those Masses are public Masses attended by people from the area. Your intention is announced at the beginning of Mass so that those present can join in praying for that intention. The stipend is ten dollars which is the amount set by the Archdiocese of Boston. Never underestimate the power of prayer!

We are close to the beginning of our East Wall project. Thanks to your generosity we have the \$50,000 needed to do the job. I had hoped to do it in the fall. A few problems came up but now everything is all set to go. The Blessed Mother will have her East Wall repaired and in tip-top condition.

Many of you write to us to tell us how much you enjoy the "Lourdes Echoes" newsletter. We are happy to know that. The printing and mailing of each issue costs about \$20,000. This month you will find an envelope asking for your help in paying these costs. Do not hesitate to send us the names of friends or acquaintances who may

want to receive the "Lourdes Echoes". It's the main way we spread the good news of Lourdes. And Lourdes is all about good news and the love of Mary for all of us. The good news of her appearing 18 times to a 14 year old girl named Bernadette.

It was very gratifying for me to celebrate the 50th year of my ordination as a Marist priest here in the Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel. We had a beautiful but simple Mass in thanksgiving followed by a very enjoyable luncheon with many good friends.

Praise the Lord for his goodness. As Mary said, "My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord."

God bless you all!

Fr. Albert



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

**Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org**

We are called by God to be different

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

The more I reflect on the way the Saints lived their lives, the more I realize how much they dared to be

different from their contemporaries. They were not followers, but their own persons. Life is too short to be worried about what other people think. Personally, if I had worried about what other people thought of me, I would not have accomplished a lot of good that I did. If that made me “different” from my confrères in Religious Life, I didn’t care. If I believed in what I was doing, that was good enough for me.

St. Bernadette, from the time she entered the convent, resolved to be her own person, despite what her Religious Superiors tried to do to “form” her into a perfect nun. She admitted that she found Religious



THE SAINTS WERE NOT FOLLOWERS

Life difficult because of it. But to her credit, she remained true to her God-given personality. We were not created to be like cookies cut from the same mold, but unique, one of a kind, no matter what others may do to try to force us to become more like them.

I’m a firm believer in “affirma-

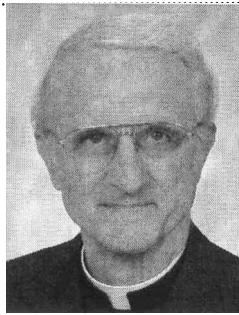
tion.” Recently I was talking to someone about affirmation of others, i.e. giving others deserving praise for a job well done. The person I was talking to said in a disparaging tone, “Some people need more affirmation than others.” Perhaps they do, but unless their “need” is extreme, what’s wrong with that? Furthermore, I believe that everyone needs affirmation to achieve their full potential. Someone may object, “Why would anyone be interested in helping others reach their full potential?” The answer is because that’s the loving thing to do. We are Christians, called by God not to live for ourselves alone, but for others. True, that’s not the way most people live. But we, as Christians, are not called to live “as most people.” We are called to be counter-cultural,” if need be. How else is the “Kingdom of God” here on earth going to be established? When we say “Our

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By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.

THE FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY

The Resurrection



The shroud of Turin comes up in the news from time to time. The shroud is that linen cloth in which the body of Jesus was enveloped when taken down from the cross. What is striking about this burial cloth is that it bears the imprints of a crucified man thought to be the crucified Jesus.

Turin is the city in Italy where its cathedral has housed and preserved this relic. Now the mysterious part: the imprint of the face of

Jesus as well as the wounds on the head, hands, feet, pierced side, lacerated and bruised body are said to be caused by light powerful enough to have seared these markings onto the burial cloth. Is this compatible with the resurrection of Jesus? The contention is that this mysterious and powerful light was emitted by the glorious resurrected body of the Lord.



Unattributed

Rendering of Jesus' Tomb

What Do The Scriptures Say?

No doubt you have read or heard about the Easter marathon: Peter and John ran together to the tomb on that first Easter Sunday. John, being the younger, outruns Peter and is first to arrive at the tomb. But out of respect he allows Peter to enter first. This is what Peter says: "...the burial cloths are there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but

rolled up in a separate place" John 20,6-7. And then John enters and this is what the Gospel says, "...he saw and believed" (John 20, 8).

There is More Than an Empty Tomb

To see the tomb empty is a good start to claim the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. But there is more, much more! Absence of the body was not the real reason for John to say that he saw and believed. Was the basis for his belief the fact that the burial cloth held the shape of the body of Jesus while remaining undisturbed? The risen Jesus had told Thomas, "Have you come to believe because you have seen me? Blessed are they who have not seen and have believed" (John 20, 29). Is John the first to be placed in that category? After all, John did not see the risen Lord. He believed because of the shape of the cloth

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Fr. LaCasse

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Father” and pray, “Thy Kingdom come,” Jesus might well reply “So what are you doing to bring it about?”

I recall the story of a man who was overwhelmed by the suffering in the world. He angrily spoke to God in his frustration and complained to God saying, “Why don’t you do something about it?” To which God replied, “I did. I created you!”

During World War II, an American soldier came across a statue

of Jesus whose two hands were torn off by the bombing of the city that our troops were now occupying. The soldier was inspired to do something which anyone passing by would have reason to reflect over – he took a piece of cardboard and wrote the words, “He has no hands but yours,” placing the sign in front of the statue. We are all called to do what we can to establish the Kingdom of God here on earth, not in the way that other people do it, but in our own unique way, and to

encourage others to do likewise, but in their own way. The Saints weren’t afraid to be different, including St. Bernadette, and we shouldn’t be afraid either.

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.

Gift Center

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

Order from The Lourdes Center

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.

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.

LUCY MCDANIEL,	MO
BARBARA F. INGLIS,	CA
JOHN DERASMO,	NJ
KENNETH WATERS,	RI
SR. GRACE GRABER, S.C.,	OH
SR. MARY ZINSER,	OH
NANCY BERNADETTE EMMERICH,	FL
VINCENT DESANTI,	LA
A. DOUGLAS HOAG,	CANADA
JOSEPH W. KONON,	NJ
WINNIE PITKA,	AK
G. ELIZABETH CARPENTER,	FL
JEAN MIGLIORI,	NJ
BERTHA PERRONE,	NJ
BETTY CARPENTER,	FL
JOHN HINDS,	NY
LUKE BRAXMEYER,	KS
EVELYN CHRISTIAN,	MA
MARY SEFAKIS,	MA
JANE BIEHN,	PA
DOROTHY M. NEALE,	MD
MARY C. CHAVEZ,	NM
NORMA YAMAMOTO,	WA
MARY DOMIANO,	MA
ANNA VARGO,	TX
MARGARET LADOUCEUR,	MA
BARBARA KOMAR,	CA
RUTH BECKER,	IA
PHYLLIS D. ROTH,	IA
ANTHONY MANFREDI,	FL
MARGARITE MCCOY	MA
CARMELLA HARRON,	CA
ANNMARIE E. LOCKE,	MN
SR. AGNES A. KNEIB,	KS
ANNA SULICK,	PA
ROSE CARALLO,	NJ
DANIEL LOS,	IN
DEACON & MRS. LARRY SANDLIN,	TX
SUSAN O'CONNELL,	PA
ALDONA GRIMES,	PA
JOSEPH C. RITTLE,	PA
ANNA YOST,	PA
JOHN RUDDY,	MA
PAUL LUONGO,	MA

Readers Write

M.M. I love your magazine. It is a joy to read. **MA**

D.D. A number of years ago I read an article about letters. In it the author spoke of how uplifting it is to arrive home at the end of a day and find “an honest to goodness letter – that is hand written” when the most that people usually get are bills and ads and catalogues. And...if the day has been especially difficult it (the letter) can revive the spirit. How true! So your little note and the prayer that you composed and sent served as a little “pick me up.” I have tried to keep alive in myself that

idea of letter writing. It seems to give me as much pleasure as I always hope that it enkindles in the recipient. Such little things seem to have suffered a terrible blow in our tech society. And the greatest technology in the world will never be able to replace the simple human touch. So, I thank you for taking those few minutes to make this one person grateful for that “human touch.” God bless! **NJ**

M.M. Thank you for your “Spiritual Growth” guidance. I really needed to read that. Thank you with all my heart! **CA**



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

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holding the form of a body without any body.

He Died for Our Sins

The crucifix is a constant reminder that Jesus died on the cross to take away sin. The idea of resurrection is not part of our experience as much as suffering and death. We know that the atoning death of Jesus was the cause of our being reconciled with God the Father. But what precisely does the resurrection of Jesus do for us?

He Rose for Our Justification

This is the part we don't hear much about. It is what takes place within us when Original Sin is taken away by the sacrament of Baptism and our actual (mortal) sins that we ourselves commit, are forgiven by the Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Confession.) It is the part we call "justification." It occurs once sin is absolved. Only it does not take away anything. Rather it imparts something. That "something" is a share in the divine life of the risen Christ. This makes us holy and pleasing to God. St. Paul expresses it this way, "He died for our sins and rose for our justification" (Romans 4, 25). It is this being made "just," holy," and "pleasing to God" that elevates us to the realm of the divine. All this is expressed by the word "adoption."

Children of God by Adoption

An adopted child does not have the blood of its parents. A child adopted into the Donald Trump family would not have Trump blood coursing through its veins. But the child would have a share in

the family's wealth and inheritance. So we, as adopted children of God, are not divine but share in the rich life of God and are heirs to heaven.

How Great Thou Art

Forgiveness of sin is a wonder in itself. But to share in the divine life is still more wondrous. There is a dance of love going on with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. By the forgiveness of sin, sanctified by grace and made children of God by adoption we, too, will share in the dance of love of the Trinitarian Family of God.

The hymn "How Great Thou Art" says it all! Are there any personal words of praise you want to add?

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 _____

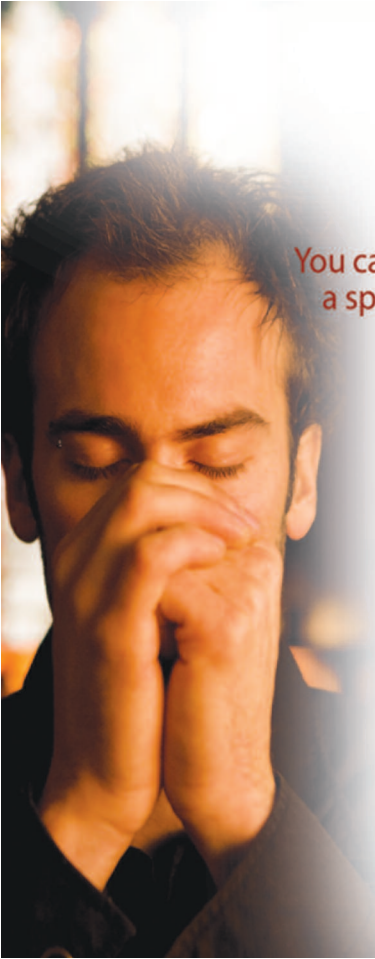
Does this person receive Lourdes Echoes?

Yes No

If not, should we send Lourdes Echoes to them?

Yes No

PLEASE ALLOW 3-6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



On Friday, May 8 & Friday, May 22
and Friday, June 12 & Friday, June 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.

Director: Rev. Andrew Albert, S.M.
Asst. Director: Rev. Roland Lacasse, S.M.
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of Our Lady and interest in her shrine at

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