

Lourdes Echoes

July-August 2015

Vol. 78 No. 2

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

Bernadette's First Apparitions in 1858

FIRST MEETING. FEB. 11

Accompanied by her sister and a friend, Bernadette went to Massabielle on the banks of the Gave to collect bones and dead wood. Removing her socks in order to cross the stream, she heard a noise like a gust of wind, she looked up towards the Grotto :

“I SAW A LADY DRESSED IN WHITE, SHE WORE A WHITE DRESS, AN EQUALLY WHITE VEIL, A BLUE BELT AND A YELLOW ROSE ON EACH FOOT.” Bernadette made the Sign of the Cross and said the Rosary with the lady. When the prayer ended the Lady suddenly vanished.

HOLY WATER FEB. 14

Bernadette felt an inner force drawing her to the Grotto in spite of the fact that she was forbidden to go there by her parents. At her insistence, her mother allowed her; after the first decade of the Rosary, she saw the same lady appearing. She sprinkled holy water at her. The lady smiled and bent her head. When the Rosary ended she disappeared.

THE LADY SPEAKS FEB. 18

For the first time, the Lady spoke. Bernadette held out a pen and paper asking her to write her name.

She replied; “It is not necessary” and she added: “I do not promise to make you happy in this world but in the other. Would you be kind

enough to come here for a fortnight?”

SHORT & SILENT APPARITION FEB. 19

Bernadette came to the Grotto with a lighted blessed candle. This is the origin of carrying candles and lighting them in front of the Grotto.

IN SILENCE FEB. 20

The lady taught her a personal prayer. At the end of the vision Bernadette is overcome with a great sadness.

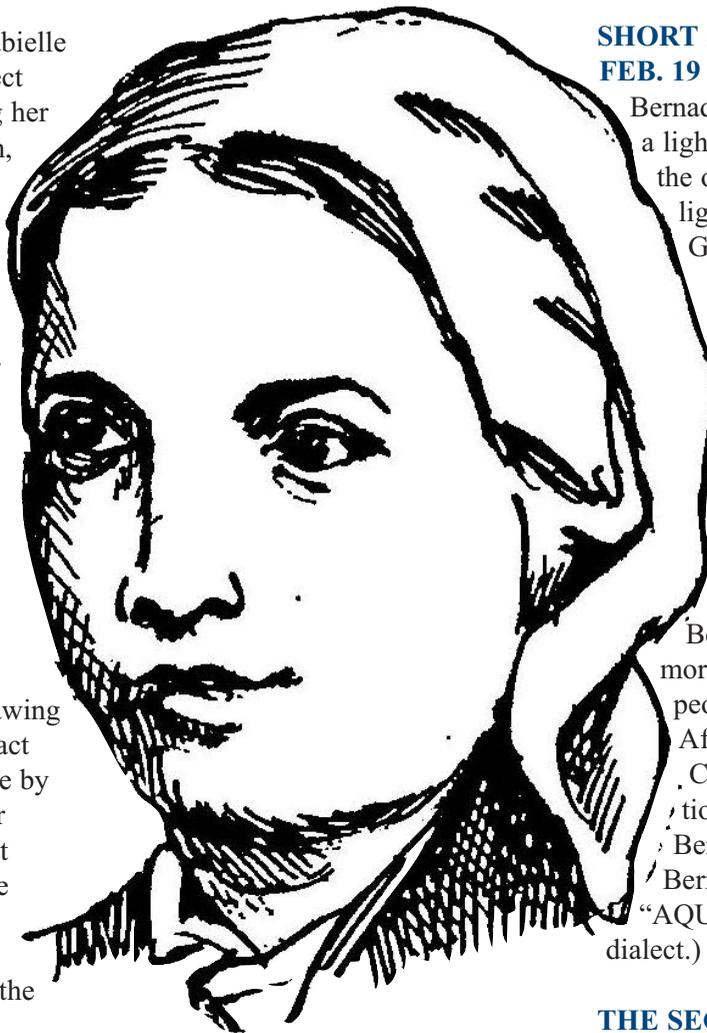
“AQUÉRO” FEB. 21

The Lady appeared to Bernadette very early in the morning. About one hundred people were present. Afterwards the Police Commissioner, Jacomet, questioned her. He wanted Bernadette to tell what she saw. Bernadette would only speak of “AQUÉRO” (“that thing” in local dialect.)

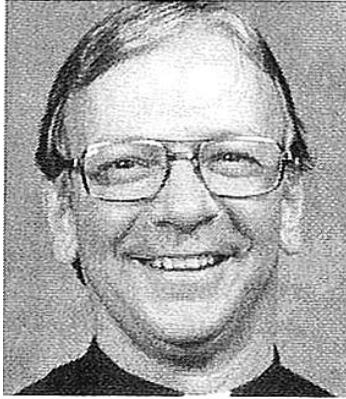
THE SECRET FEB. 23

Surrounded by 150 persons, Bernadette arrived at the Grotto. The Apparition reveals to her a secret “only for her alone.”

The rest of the apparitions will be described in our next issue of Echoes.



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

Often enough someone will wander into our chapel at 698 Beacon Street and ask, "What's this place all about?" In other words, who are you and why are you here? Visiting priests will ask the same question. Why the water? What's Lourdes water? What's special about it?

To answer the question we have to go back to February 11, 1858 when a beautiful lady was seen in a grotto by a 14 year old girl named Bernadette. On Sunday February 14, 1858, Bernadette got permission from her mother to go back to the grotto and she saw the beautiful lady again. On February 18th Bernadette went to the grotto with two older women. Only Bernadette saw the beautiful lady and this time the beautiful lady asked Bernadette to come every day for two weeks. The older women persuaded Bernadette's mother to allow her to go for the two weeks. Of course by now a lot of people were going to the grotto. None of them saw the beautiful lady but they did see Bernadette in a state of ecstasy. Bernadette's whole attention was on the lady she was seeing.

On March 4th, the last day of the two weeks, there were 20,000 people jammed in the area of the grotto. It was during one of the early apparitions that

the lady told Bernadette to drink the water and wash her face with it. Bernadette did not see any water so she headed to the nearby Gave River. But the lady said no and told Bernadette to scratch the ground near where she was kneeling. She did, and little by little water started coming out, and hence was born the spring from which Lourdes water comes. The local people who believed the lady was the Blessed Mother (although Bernadette never said it was the Blessed Mother) started to bring sick children to the spring to bathe them in the water, and cures started happening.

It was on March 25th, the Feast of the Annunciation, that the beautiful lady told Bernadette her name. The pastor kept asking Bernadette to get the lady's name. Bernadette had asked more than once during previous apparitions but finally during the apparition of March 25th the lady said, "I am the Immaculate Conception." By now people were coming from all over to make use of the miraculous water of the Lourdes Shrine.

In 1950 we the Marist Fathers were asked by Archbishop Cushing of Boston and Bishop Theas of Lourdes France to establish a ministry to make water from Lourdes easily available to the people of the United States and Canada, and so the Lourdes Center was born. We exist because the Blessed Mother wanted a chapel built in Lourdes and to give the people her

gift of healing water. The agreement was that the water was to be free, just as it is free if you go to the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes in France. The \$3 donation we ask for is strictly to pay for the cost of getting the water from Lourdes to Boston and to package and mail it to you. We do not profit from the water. We can continue because you give us gifts and donations. People remember our ministry in their wills. Some people establish trusts that benefit our ministry. Some people make us beneficiaries of their IRA accounts.

The Blessed Mother continues to bless our ministry. She inspires people to help us and be part of this ministry. And this special water that she gave to the world continues to provide healing and help for thousands of people who believe in her.

God bless you all!

Fr. Albert



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

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

What are your inner resources?

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

What is happening in our society here in America? A heroin epidemic has been raging, suicide has

been legalized in some parts of our country, road rage has become more and more common, and even prescription drugs have been more and more abused. I ask myself, “What’s happening to us?”

Coping has become so difficult to so many people, I have to wonder why. Is there a connection between this and the fact that religion is at an all-time low? Where do most people find the inner strength to go on, once they have given up on church attendance? People like Martin Luther King found it in embracing a cause worth dedicating his life to. He is once reported to have said words to the effect that he would like to live

WE ARE HERE
FOR JUST
A LITTLE WHILE.
WHILE WE ARE
HERE ON EARTH,
HOPEFULLY WE’RE
IMPROVING
THINGS

to a ripe old age, but there are things more important than that. Others have said that the secret to happiness is to live for something bigger than oneself. But what did Jesus and his followers say? Does anyone care?

My heroes are not modern-day athletes but people like Mother

Teresa of Calcutta and St. Bernadette. They didn’t live for themselves alone or for this life but for God and for others. When you are lonely, discouraged, and depressed, do you reach out to others to make their cares a little lighter, their days a little brighter? Or do you wallow in self-pity and lament the fact that nobody seems to care? When we say the “Our Father,” what do we mean when we pray, “Thy Kingdom come?” Does it not mean that we are willing to work for a better world? That we are willing to forget our troubles and help others to solve theirs? That’s what made the saints, like St. Bernadette, so attractive.

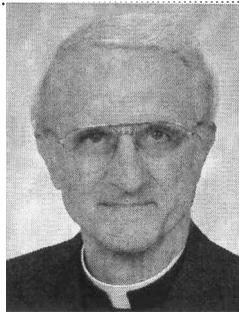
We’re only here for a little while. While we are here on earth we are, hopefully, trying to improve things. God knows we have plenty of opportunities to do so. We need inner strength to wage war on the forces of evil that surround us –

Continued on page 5

By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.

THE FIFTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY

The Queenship of Mary



Please note: it was my intention to run this article in the last issue.

To declare Mary as “Queen” is not something the Church dreams up to bestow upon Mary a title of honor. As in her other titles this one, too, is biblically based. It may not be explicitly stated but certainly implied. To understand this we must keep in mind the prophecy that an offspring of King David will become the king “(whose) kingdom will endure forever” (2 Samuel 7,16.) The inheritor of that promise was fulfilled in Jesus, the Messiah-King. The queen in this context is the Queen Mother. The first lady in biblical times was not the wife of the king but his mother!

Mary, Mother of King of kings and Lord of lords

Elizabeth is well aware that Mary has conceived the Messiah-King



Mary, our Mother, pray for us.

according to the words of the Angel Gabriel, “...and of his kingdom there will be no end. ” (Luke 1, 33) Elizabeth praises Mary with the words, “the mother of my Lord” (Luke 1, 43) The use of “Lord” has the meaning of God. Mary is the Mother of the Lord of lords and

King of kings!

Queenship in the Old Testament

The honor shown to the queen mother in the Old Testament (Hebrew Scriptures) will help us understand Mary’s relationship to her Son in the New Testament (Christian Scriptures.) The following scene is taken from 1 Kings 2, 19-20: Queen Bathsheba comes before her son, King Solomon. She has a request to make to the king on behalf of a petitioner. (The role of the queen as an intercessor is obvious.)

What happens now is very telling. Her son, King Solomon, stands and greets her with reverence; he then sits upon his throne and a throne is provided for her who sits at his right.

Honor Shown to the Queen

Continued on page 7

Fr. LaCasse

Continued from page 3

greed, selfishness, crime and terrorism. Where does one acquire that strength but from a personal relationship with God? Where does one nurture that relationship but by prayer and church attendance? People who say they don't need God or church attendance to be happy are only fooling themselves. Not only that, but they are missing the point. Life is more than for personal gratification. It's also to make a contribution toward betterment of this world of ours. Pity the person who,

at the end of his/her life, laments the fact the he/she has done little or nothing to make the world a better place in which to live.

Someone once said to me, "Father, when you die and appear before God, I hope God shows you all the people you helped when you were on earth." That's something that we should be able to say about every Christian! God doesn't make junk. We were all created for a purpose. When I can't sleep, I listen to talk shows. There's a talk show host

that ends his program by saying to his listeners, "Keep well, so you can do good!" That's good advice. The Saints took it to heart, and so should we.

Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name _____

Address _____

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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.

Readers Write

F.P. Enclosed is a small token to help for the printing and mailing of the Lourdes Echoes. I enjoy it very much. Also, please pray for my

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.

- MARGARET PAYNE, IN
- A. DOUGLAS HOAG, CANADA
- ROBERT STRYCHALSKI, NY
- SUSAN HENDRICKS, CA
- MARY KENNY, FL
- PAUL ROONEY, LA
- ELIZABETH HEALY, NJ
- PAUL PESCHEL, OH
- JOSEPH LIMA, MA
- DOROTHY SKRZYPCHAK, WI
- FRANCES GALLAGHER, OH
- CELIA CELLI, PA
- BEVERLY SCHUBERT, AL
- SR. MARY BLANCHE, OR
- BRIAN YOCKERS, KS
- ALYCE HANSEN, IN
- JOAN BUTTWEILER, MN
- ELAINE KEEFER, NJ
- JOSEPHINE GAJEC, MI
- DOROTHY BUDNICK, MI
- JOHN M. RICARD, LA
- RUBY RICARD, LA
- MARILYN SHARP, LA
- RAFAEL-VALDES-CAMIN, CA
- KEN WERNER, WI
- AGNES YEDINAK, IL
- CESAR LIMJOCO, IN
- REGINA O. MORRIS, GA
- JAN PEDE, VA
- MARIE THOMAS, MA
- CATHERINE BRADLEY BOYAGIAN, NY
- MYRTLE MIDDLETON
- SR. GABRIEL PETIPAS, MA
- LEE ACKERSON

daughter who has a corneal disease and her eyesight is worsening. It is difficult for her at her work. She is a therapist in a psyche unit. Thank you and God bless you. **OH**

F.D. I was privileged to go on a pilgrimage to Lourdes that changed my life for the better and now, at the age of 83 years, I still marvel about Lourdes. I have received "Echoes" for years now and usually order Lourdes Water on a regular basis. This money can be used where it's needed. My family has had miracles with the use of the Lourdes Water. I am asking for my eyesight and memory and my dog's eyesight to be healed. God bless you.

CANADA

R.S. My brother was in a nursing home. When we went to visit, I took a Rosary and case for him. He thanked me and said: "I have not been to church for years." And with that he asked the nurse to put it in a drawer. The next day I went to visit him and the Rosary in its case was on top of a small table. We said nothing about it. We live 1,000 miles apart and had a plane to catch the next day. Two weeks later my brother passed away and in his hands was the Rosary. His family never knew I gave him a Rosary but finally figured it out. His son called me to ask if I would mind if they buried their dad with the Rosary in his hands.

"No," I responded. "It's his passport to heaven." **VA**



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 4

Mother

We must not see a grandiose gesture in providing the queen with a throne, but rather something warranted by courtly manners. The deference shown to the queen mother and her being seated at the king's right is embedded in the protocol of the Davidic Dynasty. Moreover, the title "Queen Mother" had political overtones. It meant "the powerful one."

Maternal Queenship

Mary's Queenship is based on Kingship of Jesus and her relationship as mother. Jesus is not a King of this world, neither is Mary Queen of this world. Her maternal care is mostly directed to leading her spiritual children, baptized into Christ, to the Kingdom of heaven. It is in the

bible that we see Mary protecting her children from the wiles of Satan. The following is a summary taken from the bible: Satan is cast out of heaven to earth by Michael and his angels. There, he pursues the woman who has given birth to a male child. His attempt to destroy her fails. The concluding verse reads, "Then the dragon became angry with the woman and went off to wage war against the rest of her offspring, those who keep God's commandments and bear witness to Jesus." (Revelation 12, 17)

Maternal Care: A Story

A seminarian decided that the priesthood was not his vocation. He leaves the seminary and returns home. An adult, he now has marriage in mind. He begins dating.

Every time he closes the door behind him and is off on a date he knows his mother goes to her favorite easy chair and says the rosary. While on the date he is at his best behavior. The reason for that is because he knows that his mother is at home praying for him. He just knows this! He is convinced of this because as soon as he returns home from an evening out, his mother leaves the chair and retires to her room – the rattling beads are heard being collected into her apron pocket. He is home safe and sound.

The mother in the story mirrors Mary Our Heavenly Queen seated at the right hand of her Son praying for her children until we return home – safe and sound.

**Our Lady,
Queen of the Rosary,
pray for us.**

Affiliations

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weekly Perpetual Novena**

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

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Phone No: _____

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

Name _____

Address _____

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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 _____

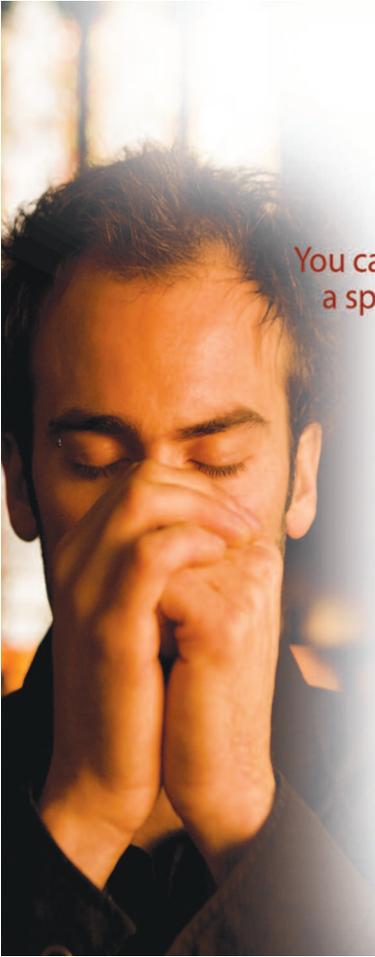
City _____

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, July 10 & Friday, July 24
and Friday, August 14 & Friday, August 28,
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.

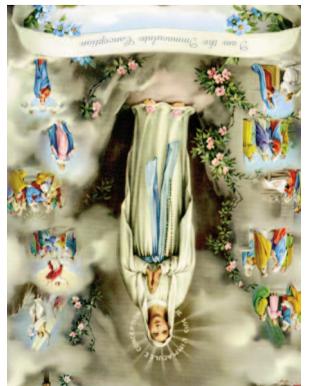
Please send us your intentions: _____

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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