

Lourdes Echoes

September-October 2015

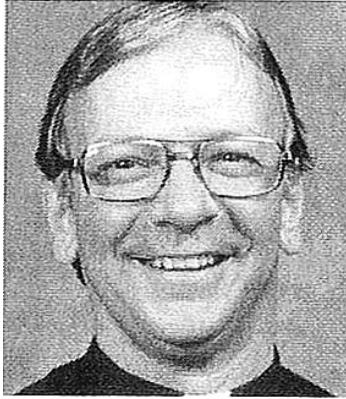
Vol. 78 No. 3

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

Our 2015 Lourdes Pilgrimage PILGRIMS FROM THIS YEAR'S LOURDES PILGRIMAGE ASSEMBLE FOR A PHOTO



THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER



REV. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

Our 2015 pilgrims are back from their pilgrimage to Lourdes. I am sure they will never forget their visit. The shrine at Lourdes is a very special place. A very prayerful place. A place where Mary appeared many times to a 14 year old girl named Bernadette. A place where countless miracles have taken place and still do take place.

In the last issue I wrote about why the Lourdes Center exists here in Boston. The main reason is to make easily available to Catholics in the U.S. and Canada the special water that comes directly from Lourdes. The water that rose from the ground when Bernadette followed Mary's instructions to scratch the ground near where she was kneeling during one of the apparitions. This water is a gift from Mary – a healing gift from our loving mother. For over 65 years the Marist Fathers have had the privilege to be the conduit for this precious water.

What else goes on here at the Lourdes Center? Prayer. We have a monthly Mass for all those suffering from cancer and other terminal diseases. We have special Masses for those who are members of Mary's affiliation. There is a daily Mass said by

one of our priests for those enrolled in what is sometimes called Purgatorials or can also be called simply a spiritual enrollment. If you are a person of faith you know the power of prayer. Jesus stressed it again and again. Jesus reminded the apostles and disciples that without prayer they could do nothing. But with prayer they could move mountains.

Have you noticed that whenever Pope Francis goes on a pastoral visit he ALWAYS visits a shrine dedicated to Mary? In his first publication to Catholics called "The Joy of the Gospel" Pope Francis stresses the importance of shrines dedicated to Mary. He greatly encourages all devotions to Mary. For us Catholics, Mary is not an afterthought. She is very much at the heart of our redemption. She gave Jesus to the world. She was the Christ bearer. She always leads us to her son. All of her legitimate apparitions stress the teachings of Jesus.

To get back to what we do here, we also have two days of prayer every month. We receive thousands of prayer requests from you, our readers. The requests are placed in a large urn at the foot of the main altar in our chapel. On those days of prayer the Mass is offered for all those many requests. Those requests are remembered in prayer by the priests throughout the

day. So a lot of what we do is pray for you and your intentions!

We also read your many letters. Letters where you tell us about your sufferings and joys. Letters where you ask us to remember your loved ones who are sick. Letters where you tell us how the Lourdes water has helped you and cured you. We believe you because we believe in the power of prayer. Letters where donations are enclosed to help us continue this ministry.

God bless you all for your great love of Our Lady of Lourdes. May you continue to help us spread the good news of Lourdes. As Pope Francis likes to say, "Don't forget to pray for me." We also say don't forget to pray for us priests who work here at Our Lady's Center.

God bless you all!

Fr. Albert



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

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

The world of criminals and terrorists is not worthy of us

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



REV. ROLAND LACASSE, S.M.

When St. Bernadette was in the convent, her Superior is said to have remarked to the other

nuns, “We are not worthy to have her.” And as I reflect on the violence and cruelty that is so prevalent in this world of ours, I conclude that the world is not worthy of the thousands of good, God-fearing people who share this planet of ours with the evil people in it. This was true in ancient Rome in the early years of Christianity when paganism was rampant, and it’s true today when terrorism is becoming more and more common. We live in an age when civilization itself is being threatened, despite the fact that there are many good people on earth.

Not long ago, when Jews were in hiding due to the attempt of Hitler

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and his evil followers to exterminate the Jewish race, a young girl by the name of Anne Frank said that she had not given up on the human race, that the world still contained many good people. She was right. We Christians share Anne Frank’s attitude. We are well aware that the world still contains evil people, but

we are also aware that there are good people also, people who are imbued with God-given attitudes that balance the evil they see all around them. These people, who are Godly, number in the millions. They give us hope for a better world. Without them, we would be tempted to become pessimistic and prone to despair.

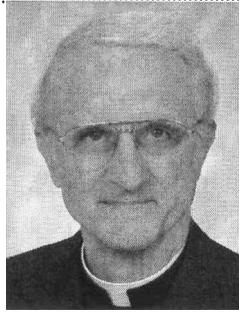
That is why the Saints serve as angels in a world that, at times, seems bent on self-destruction. People like Mother Teresa of Calcutta and Pope Francis remind us not to give up hope and to keep hope alive. Without that hope, there is no living. People like St. Bernadette, who needed only 35 years to become a Saint, likewise give us hope. I often wonder why people in leadership positions are so reluctant to ask themselves, “What does the Bible say?” and “What would Jesus do?” After all, Jesus came on earth to teach us how to live, as well as to

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By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.

THE FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY

Agony in The Garden



The scene is a quiet evening in a garden of olive trees. We see Jesus praying to his Father in heaven. He is in great distress. He knows that his enemies are plotting his approaching death. His prayer is well known, “My Father, if it is not possible that this cup pass without my drinking it, your will be done.” Matthew 26, 42. Many Christians use this prayer when all means of avoiding some stressful situation have been exhausted. They then unite their distress with that of the Divine Master with words such as, “Not my will, but thine be done.”

Human Comfort Denied

The friends of Jesus seem unaware of the mental anguish Jesus is experiencing.

The gospel describes it this way, “...his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground” Luke 22, 44. When we are frightened and scared we seek comfort from those closest to us. Jesus had Peter, James, and John accompany him for this very reason. They failed to give support when Jesus was at the heart



Unattributed

of the struggle for the salvation of the world. Despite their negligence and the onslaught of his approaching suffering and horrible death by crucifixion, Jesus was not deterred from his goal. Three times Jesus came to his friends seeking some kind of human comfort amid his torturous ordeal. Jesus is behaving much the same way you or I would given a situation where we find ourselves in panic out of extreme fear. We pace back and forth trying to find composure; not finding it, we repeat the pacing; finally, in desperation, seek companionship. Jesus had his chosen friends but they are asleep. He complains, “So you could not watch with me for an hour? Watch and pray that you may not undergo the test. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” Matthew 26, 40-41.

The Holy Hour

The origin of the practice of the Holy Hour before the Blessed

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Fr. LaCasse

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reconcile us with His Heavenly father. That should count for something, it seems to me.

When I became a priest in 1960, I wanted to help people get to Heaven, but I also wanted to help people live happy lives. Our young people need to learn that to be happy, we have to include God and religion in our life. More than 1500 years ago, a fellow, while in his youth, tried all kinds of things to be happy, everything except a personal relationship with God. His name was Augustine. He eventually con-

cluded that “You have made us for Yourself, O God, and our hearts can find no rest, until they rest in Thee.” Are we listening?

There is an emptiness in the lives of many people today. Drugs and alcohol are futile attempts to fill that emptiness. Our souls are starving for spiritual nourishment and we are not aware of what’s happening to us. The Saints down through the ages have been showing us the way to be happy and we act as if they never existed or are not to be taken seriously.

It has been said, “Only the good

die young.” I believe that a lot of elderly people, who are good people, live to a ripe old age also. They have a lot to teach us as to how to live. They, too, can help us in our search for happiness. We have to be worthy of them, in this world in which we live. ■

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.

JOSEPH MEYERL, WI
HERBERT A. LISTER, NH
JOYCE COURVILLE, LA
JAMES RYAN, IA
LORRAINE WAITES, PA
BERNICE GANDELONE
JOSIE MARTINEZ, CA
ELIZABETH GOODWIN, CA
ROSIE THIBODEAUX, LA
IVY J. THIBODEAUX, LA
FLOSSIE HOOSE, OK
MARY ANN SEIDEMAN, CA
MARJORIE ARNOLD, CANADA
A. DOUGLAS HOAG, CANADA
ESTHER RAINDL, TX
EILEEN WILKIN, NY
FRANCES M. BRADFORD, WA
DOROTHY SKRZYPCHAK, WI
HELEN BLUMBERGER, PA
MARY LIVINGSTONE, MA
EARLINE FIORELLA, LA
CLAIRE TEKESER, NC
LUCILLE WOODCOCK, NY
AGNES RITTER, MO
RONALD E. MCMAHON, MA
KENNETH A. REIHING, OH
ANN PIERCE, GA
ELIZABETH GERBER
JOSEPHINE FOJTIK, TX
RITA YARBOROUGH, MO
SR. ALICE M. GLENNON, WI
DOLORES GRECO, AL
JOHN ROSSO, VT
FABIO PINI, PA
SR. MARY IMMACULATA JANZ, DC
SHEILA NAVRATIL, ID
FRANCES ELLIS, MA
JOANNE KERR, TX
JULIA SIMONS, AK

Readers Write

L.R. I am writing to request prayers for the family I grew up in. Our oldest sibling has always been difficult and has created rifts between us repeatedly over the years, so much so that our relationships are now virtually non-existent. Our parents are now gone and our children have no sense of family because we never see each other anymore. Once a few years ago, the problem sibling shared with me that he didn't love our parents — and it showed. They could sense it and knew it. He has created situations between the other siblings that have tested our relationships and our basic trust in one another. It is very

difficult now because at the holidays we are all with our inlaws and never with our original family. It is as if the family has disintegrated and all because of this one sibling. Please pray that we can put this family together again. Please help us come together without vulnerability to the influences inserted between us so our children can grow up with their cousins and know the benefits of a full and loving family. Thank you and God bless you. **CA**

J.M. Thank you for making the Lourdes Water available to us. It helps to know we're touching water from such a holy place.



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

Sacrament is found in these words of Jesus, "Could you not keep watch for one hour? Watch and pray..." Mark 14, 37. We can, in our own way, offer companionship and comfort to Jesus during his passion. The hour of reparation that is associated with devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has just such a purpose. Jesus, in one sweeping glance, sees all the sins of humankind that are committed down through the corridors of time. Noted as well are the acts of reparation performed by Christians for their own personal sins and the sins of others. Therein lies the source of comfort and solace to Jesus during his agony in the garden. This idea is supported by the doctrine of the communion of saints, that is, Christians baptized into Christ are

all connected as members of his body: he is the head, we the members. Just as one part of the body may be in pain, another member of the same body is able to bring comfort – hands soothing the hurt on one's foot. True on the physical level, true on the spiritual. In this way we lessen the sting of the words, "I looked for compassion, but there was none, for comfort, but I found none" Psalm 69, 27.

Jesus, a People Person

The gathering to his side of twelve men demonstrates his yearning and love to be with people. How his tender heart must have suffered at the denial of Peter, the betrayal of Judas, and let us not forget our own sins! Jesus invites us to join him by making reparation for our own

sins and for those of the whole world.

"O my people, what have I done to you? How have I offended you? Answer me!" ("Micah, 6, 3)

Jesus is waiting...

*Sincere thanks
to all those
who sent donations
in the envelope
to help with the
printing of
The Echoes.
We received
\$14,200!*

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 _____

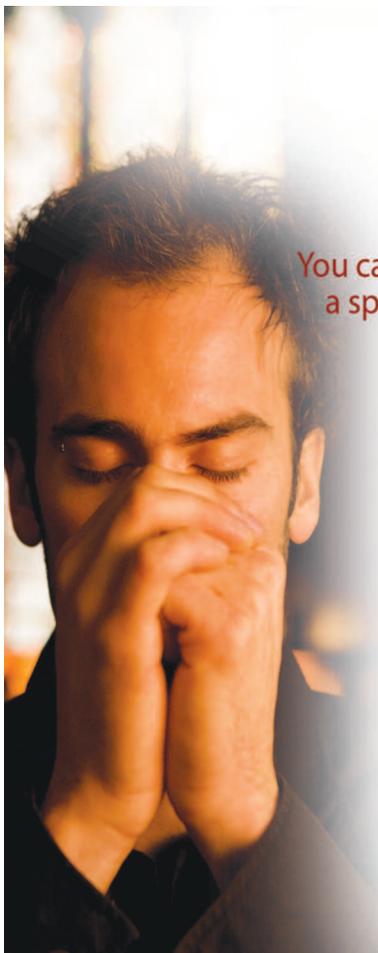
City _____

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, September 11 & Friday, September 25
and Friday, October 9 & Friday, October 23,
The Marist Fathers & Brothers of the Lourdes Center
will be praying for you.

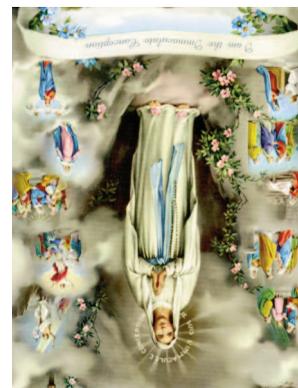
You can count on it, on the second and the fourth Friday of every month, we hold
a special prayer day when we say special prayers and offer Mass at our chapel
for our extended Lourdes family ... including you.

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.

*Address Service
Requested*

Lourdes Center
Marist Fathers
Lourdes Bureau
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698 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02215-2594
617-536-2761
www.lourdescenter.org
OurLady@LourdesCenter.org



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