

Lourdes Echoes

January-February 2017

Vol. 80 No. 3

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



Fr. Joseph Allen, O.P.

63rd U.S. National Rosary Pilgrimage

Lourdes, France

JUNE 22 TO JULY 01, 2017

(Also visiting St. Jean de Luz & Gavarnie)

Welcoming individuals, families, parish groups

Accompanied by clergy, medical staff & volunteers to
assist the needs of the pilgrims.



Fr. Michael Mary Dosch, O.P.



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International air transportation • Including airline fuel surcharges • First class hotels • All meals: breakfast • lunch and dinner • Guided tour of Lourdes • Guided visit to Gavarnie • Transfers and baggage handling • Tips for hotel dining and guides • Sanctuary registration fee • Scheduled liturgical services

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SINGLE ROOM SUPPLEMENT — \$ 395.00

(If you are flying from different cities please contact us.)

To make a reservation, kindly send your deposit in the sum of \$400.00 per person.
PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: CATHOLIC TRAVEL OFFICE

MAIL TO:

Lourdes Pilgrimage Office of Catholic Travel
5505 Granby Road
Rockville, Maryland 20855
TEL: (301) 740-9332 * TOLL FREE: 1-877-276-7279 * EMAIL: lourdespilgrimageoffice@comcast.net *
WEBSITE: www.Lourdes-pilgrimage.com

TO INSURE A PLACE ON THIS PILGRIMAGE PLEASE BOOK EARLY!!!

RESERVATION DEADLINE MARCH 15, 2017

SEE PAGE 3 FOR ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON THIS OPPORTUNITY



FR. ANDREW ALBERT, S.M.

THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Dear Friends of the Lourdes Center,

Thank you all for your Christmas greetings and your Christmas donations to our ministry. We couldn't do this without your wonderful help. Our Lady of Lourdes will repay you as only she can.

My first trip to the beautiful shrine of Lourdes in France was in April 1976. I was leading a group of parishioners from a large parish where I was pastor. We spent three rainy days in Lourdes. But it was amazing how the rain did not affect a thing. The sick were on mobile stretchers that were pushed by helpers. The sick were protected with waterproof coverings. The large evening processions, featuring the rosary in many languages accompanied by Marian hymns went on as usual. There were thousands and thousands of pilgrims. It was so obvious that this place was special. The sick and their needs was the number one priority. Everyone was mindful of doing what could be of help to the sick. It was wonderful to see real Christian charity in practice.

I was helped to organize this parish trip by the very people who organized the Lourdes Center yearly pilgrimages. They knew who to refer me to. What hotel to stay at, and who to contact so that our

group could have a group Mass at the outside grotto where Mary appeared so many times to Bernadette. That was a great privilege. And the members of our group considered that the highlight of our rainy days in Lourdes.

There is no shrine like Lourdes. It is absolutely unique.

I was able to go in more recent years as chaplain of the group leaving from Boston under the auspices of the Lourdes Center. There was no rain those times and we spent our entire week in Lourdes. More time for prayer. More time for visiting the church where Bernadette was baptized. More time to attend Mass in the huge underground basilica of St. Pius X where the sick are blessed by the priest carrying the Blessed Sacrament in the monstrance. Miracles of healing have happened as a result of that blessing.

The cover of this issue gives you information on this year's June pilgrimage. For the past few years we have combined our pilgrimage with that of the Catholic Travel Office based in Maryland. For more information and brochures you can contact us here at 617-536-2761, or you can write to us at 698 Beacon Street, Boston MA 02215, or you can call the Catholic Travel Office number listed on our cover page.

Lourdes is a place of healing and prayer. I know it is expensive for many of you. The air fare is high. But it is a

trip worth saving for. If you decide to put aside just \$20 a month for such a trip you will have enough money to afford it in a few years.

I received the sad news of the death of George Osborn in late November. George was involved with the Lourdes Center and organized our tours to Lourdes for at least 40 years. We are so grateful for his many years of dedicated service. Please keep George, his wife Louise, and his family in your prayers.

As we begin a new year, I pray that God will bless you and your family. I pray that your devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes grows and that you really feel Mary's presence in your daily life.

God Bless You All!

Fr. Albert



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

Our website is:
www.lourdescenter.org

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

continued from page 1

June 22, Thursday: Depart on your flights, economy class for Pau or Toulouse.

June 23, Friday: Arrive Pau or Toulouse. On arrival transfer by motorcoach to your hotel in Lourdes. Time to rest. Optional 5:00PM Mass. Dinner and Overnight.

June 24, Saturday: Breakfast and Opening Mass, followed by an optional orientation tour of the Domain and 30-minute video on "The Message of Lourdes." For those visiting Lourdes for the first time, this is strongly recommended. Lunch at noon. Afternoon pilgrim reception in the garden of the Gallia Londre Hotel. Dinner. Participate in the Evening Torchlight Procession of Lourdes with other National Pilgrimages from around the world.

June 25, Sunday: Breakfast. Attend the International Mass of Lourdes where all National Pilgrimages come together to celebrate this glorious Mass with exceptional music. Lunch, followed by a scenic excursion into the Pyrenees to Gavarnie. The Village of Gavarnie was the last village in France in the middle ages on the old route to the tomb of St. James at Santiago de Compostella. The cirque Gavarnie is the most famous place in the Pyrenees. Along the very beautiful route to Gavarnie, you will see places of interest that will be explained to you by your guide. There will be a visit in Gavarnie which will allow you time to take a walk along the river, to see the statue of Our Lady of the Snows and to shop in the craft shops or perfumery and enjoy a local café. Return to Lourdes for Dinner and overnight.

June 26, Monday: Breakfast. Mass. Morning free to enter the Baths (Miraculous Waters) of Lourdes, for private devotions or to explore the upper and lower towns of Lourdes with its many shops and cafes. Lunch. Afternoon Penance Service and Sacrament of Reconciliation. At 5:00 PM, participate in the Eucharistic Procession, Blessing of the Sick, and Benediction. Dinner. Overnight.

June 27, Tuesday: Breakfast. Mass of the Anointing. Immediately following Mass, gather for a group picture in front of the Rosary Basilica; Remainder of the morning is free. Following lunch, (for those able), participate in a walking tour of Lourdes visiting the places associated with the life of St. Bernadette: The Boly Mill where St. Bernadette was born and the Locade Mill, residence of her parents after 1864. Also visit the Cachot, formerly used as a jail where Bernadette lived at the time of the Apparitions and the Parish Church, containing the Baptismal font where Bernadette was baptized. After dinner, we will participate in the Evening, Torchlight Procession of Lourdes.

June 28, Wednesday: Breakfast. Mass at the Grotto of Massabielle, the site of the Apparitions. Optional day trip to St. Jean de Luz. You will enjoy this lovely, resort, fishing village with its quaint shops, cafes and beach. Return to Lourdes, Dinner and Overnight.

June 29, Thursday: Breakfast. Mass. Time free to enter the Baths. After lunch, make the Way of the Cross which is depicted with magnificent, life size bronze statues on the hillside. 5:00pm Eucharistic Procession, Blessing of the Sick and Benediction. Dinner and Overnight.

June 30, Friday: Breakfast. Closing Mass at the outside altar of St. Bernadette with renewal of marriage vows and blessing of the children. Time free to enter the Baths of Lourdes, for private devotions and to visit the museums or upper and lower towns. Lunch. Afternoon: optional visit to the Castle of Lourdes, now the Pyrenean museum which presents a synthesis of the popular arts and traditions of the Pyrenees. The old castle chapel contains the XVIII Century altars and the ornaments taken from the old Parish Church of Lourdes. Afternoon Eucharist Procession, Blessing of the Sick and Benediction. Dinner. Overnight.

July 01, Saturday: Breakfast. Depart Pau or Toulouse for your return flights home.

GENERAL CONDITION AND INFORMATION

PLEASE NOTE: If you are traveling alone and want a roommate, we will do our best to arrange double occupancy. If double occupancy is not available, a surcharge will be imposed. If you prefer a single, please advise and we will bill you accordingly. Single room supplement is **\$395.00**. Single rooms are very limited and are assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis. Again, early reservations are recommended. Rate based on tariffs and exchange rate in effect Sept. 1, 2016 and subject to change.

NOT INCLUDED: Cost of passport, visa fees (where applicable), strictly personal items, laundry, wines, beverages not on table d'hôte, optional excursion to St. Jean de Luz, Wheelchair rentals, all that is not stated under, "all inclusive."

RESERVATIONS: Reservations should be accompanied by a deposit of \$400.00 per person due by March 15, 2017 with final payment due no later than May 01, 2017. Final documents and tickets will be sent approximately three weeks prior to departure. Due to new airline regulations regarding group air fares, reservations must be received at least 90 days prior to departure. **Reservations received after this date are confirmed on the basis of space availability and may be subject to a fare increase. Early reservations recommended.**

CANCELLATIONS & WITHDRAWALS: All

Cancellations must be received in writing.

FEES: Cancellations received 95 or more days prior to departure- \$200.00; 94 - 45 days \$400.00; 44 -31 days 50%; 30 days of departure 100% of the tour price.
****Cancellation insurance is strongly recommended.**

FINAL PAYMENT: Final payment for this pilgrimage is due no later than May 1, 2017. Failure to make your final payment by this date may result in the cancellation of your reservation and the forfeiture of your deposit. In addition to the above cancellation fees, once issued, airline tickets are non-refundable. Again, traveler's insurance is strongly recommended. **** Forms will be sent to you upon receipt of your deposit**** refund requests received within six weeks of departure will be processed after the pilgrimage departs.

MEDICAL FORMS: Each participant of the U.S. National Lourdes Pilgrimage must complete a short medical form, which will be mailed to you. If you are in good health, you need only indicate this on the form with your signature. Medical forms must be completed and returned to us no later than May 1, 2017

RESPONSIBILITY: CATHOLIC TRAVEL OFFICE and their agents act only in the capacity of agents in all matters pertaining to hotel accommodations, sightseeing tours and

all forms of transportation. Catholic Travel Office except for willful negligence on the part of its direct employees, is not responsible for any damage, loss (included but not limited to property loss, personal injury, loss of enjoyment, distress or life) caused by omissions of any supplier providing services for this pilgrimage or by any delays or changes in the itinerary, or acts or omissions by the tour leader. Catholic Travel Office reserves the right to cancel the pilgrimage at any time, to substitute a tour leader if necessary or to make changes in the itinerary whenever their sole judgment determines that conditions warrant a change or in their sole judgment, changes will improve the comfort, convenience and safety of the tour. The price of the tour is based on a minimum number of passengers which is indicated on your itinerary. If the minimum is not met, the price of the tour will be increased. While we make every effort to keep these rates firm, they can be subject to increase. Airlines involved in this itinerary are not responsible for any act, omission or event during the time passengers are not on board their aircraft or conveyance. The reservation and ticket issued for the passengers on this pilgrimage will constitute a sole contract between the airlines and purchaser.

YOUR DEPOSIT AND PAYMENT FOR THIS TRIP CONSTITUTES ACCEPTANCE OF ALL OF THE CONDITIONED NOTED HEREIN

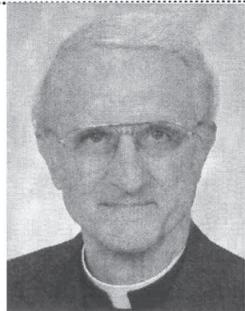
RESERVATION DETAILS ON PAGE ONE

By Fr. Frank Grispino, S.M.

THE FOURTH LUMINOUS MYSTERY

The Transfiguration

Luke 9, 28-36



Is there an elder member of your family that captures your interest when she or he recalls the good old days? Well, you have an idea of what St. Peter was doing when he recalls an event that took place on a mountain long ago. He was with two other Apostles, James and John, who witnessed Jesus becoming brilliant as the sun. They heard a voice declare, "This is my Son, my beloved, with whom I am well pleased" ² Peter 1, 17. This event, not easily forgotten, was as astounding as it was magnificent. Jesus lit up like a neon sign. His divinity showed through the veil of his humanity as sunlight through a stained glass window. This majestic splendor is called, the "Transfiguration."

Hold On to the Light When Darkness Comes

Soon after this glorious transformation on the holy mountain took place, another not so glorious transformation occurred on another mountain called Golgotha. It must have been a sight hard to look at, like a ghastly scene on television; we avert the eyes and turn away. It's too much to bear. Such was the sight of Jesus hanging on the cross looking too human, spread

eagle, and bruised and bloodied from head to toe. The significance of the first glorious event in contrast to the second must have become clear: what was seen in the light must be held onto when the darkness comes.

Our Experience of the Light When In the Dark

People speak more of their struggles and stumbles in life's journey than they do of their spiritual highs. More to the point, they are reticent when it comes to sharing something of a spiritual nature. An illustration might help. You find yourself close to having the bottom fall from beneath your feet when suddenly you see the outline of the Virgin Mary's face on a cloud or even a paper crumpled up on the table. You are surprised! Your heart soars in a laughable kind of jubilation. But now here is where the mistake is often made: you share what you see with another. It is pooh-poohed! The blissful bubble is pricked! What was personally precious is unappreciated. Have you ever thought that such an event was meant to be for your eyes only? It was meant for your support and encouragement, your little grace and not another's. In no way can this be stacked up with the "Transfiguration," but who is to say that it is not part of the mystery of God.

"A Thin Place"

This expression comes to us from Irish spirituality. It may even pre-date Christianity. In a general kind of a way it means that a gauze-like veil separating the divine world from our human world may be experienced at times. Perhaps an illustration may help. A nun teaching a primary grade had the children perform a little exercise. As they all stood at their desks, a small container of water was passed from one child to the next. Upon receiving the water, the child dipped the thumb in the water and traced the sign of the cross on the forehead of the next child pronouncing the child's Christian name while doing so. Each repeated the gesture before passing on the water. Sister said that she felt strange viewing the scene reminiscent of their baptism and the enjoyment on the faces of the children. It all seemed unreal, not of this world. It was at that moment that one of the children yelled, "Sister, I feel that I am in heaven!"

Catholics and The "Thin Place"

We Catholics have our own "thin places" whenever we celebrate the

Continued on next page

Marist Guidance

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.

O.J. MC LAUGHLIN, OH
SR. ELENA MAJIKAS, O.F., NY
SR. JANE BURKHART, O.F., NY
SR. MONICA UPTON, O.F., NY
SR. VIRGINIA MAGUIRE, O.P., NY
SR. MARY ANTHONY, NY
TITO MUNIZ, NY
BEN DAIGLE, LA
ANTHONY KIEFFER, WA
MARY REED, SC
JEAN GRUDIN, OR
 THERESE PROULX, MA
AGNES HORWAT, PA
MARGARET CREPEAU, IN
DEBRA LEJEUNE, LA
ARDELL MILLWARD, OH
DELIA LEWIS, CA
CYRILLA SUDBECK, KS
LOURDES O. EMMANUEL, CA
BEATRICE STOUT, NM
KAREN STOLTE, TX
FRAN BARAN, OH
NICK MONDELL, PA
CAROL PARENT, NH
FRANCIS A. CADY, MA
ALICE M. KLUK, MA
DANIEL BITTORF, PA
JOSEPH SEVIGNY, MA
FIDELIS HASSELMAN, PA
EDWARD HASSELMAN, PA
DANIEL DOHERTY, WI
WILLIAM C WALLACE, NY
WILLIAM B. WALLACE, NY
ROSE PETRILLO, CT
RITA VAN SAMBEEK, WI
ARTHUR & LILA BASHAW & FAMILY, NY
ISRAEL & BERTHA DUBREY FAMILY, NY
YOUNG & SACKY FAMILIES, CA
PATRICIA MCCARTHY, TX
MAYBELLE M. FAVERO, NY
ANLEE NOLAN, WA
LOUIS DANIEL, FL

ANTHONY DOMINO, IL
LINDA BENNETT, KY
ELTON MAY, TX
KATHLEEN M. MCCRANE, OH
BETTY JORGENSEN, GA
SENIA & JOE FIAVI, AS
MARION KASPROWIA, IL
JOSEPHINE BENICASE, NY
CATHERINE BROWN, IA
JENNIE MEREU, NJ
LOUISE FOSS, NY
ARLIS HENTGES, SD
ELVIRA RUBINETTI, NJ

Fr. Grispino

The Transfiguration

Continued from previous page

sacraments. There may not be a breakthrough as in the “transfiguration” experienced by the apostles. But the separation of the divine from the human is certainly veiled in each of the sacraments. Yet the sacraments, especially the Eucharist, should be awe-inspiring. The appearances of the bread and the wind veil the Divine Presence who is none other than Jesus, the Light: “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8, 12.

What we see in the light of faith, we must hold onto when the darkness comes.

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.

What's happening to us here in America?

By Rev. Roland Lacasse, s.m.



Recently, a survey revealed that many people in America no longer believed in God. As a student of

American History, I recall that the Founding Fathers of our country not only believed in God, but they also placed a high value on character and morality. Do we Americans really think that religion and morality are no longer important? If so, how can we expect God to bless our country? We sing "God Bless America" and we proclaim "In God We Trust," but are these words just empty words, or what we truly believe?

The Saints stand for a way of life that is in great contrast to the way many of our fellow citizens live today. Are we to believe that "God understands," as some people profess to believe? Or is God losing patience with us and trying to show us how displeased He is with us by the way things are going here in our country?

Every night I pray for our country before I fall asleep. We have no guarantee that our country will continue to be the hope of the world. Yet, how

"I often wonder why people are so reluctant to seek guidance by reading the Bible, instead of pretending that the Bible is irrelevant to modern day problems. Human nature doesn't change."

can we expect God to help us if we turn our backs on Him? There was a time when Christian Europe was threatened to be overrun by the Muslims. It was only by God's intervention, in response to the prayers of the Rosary, that catastrophe was averted. Perhaps it's time for devout Catholics all over the world to storm Heaven with their prayers once again.

During World War II, our churches were packed with people who feared that the Allies might lose the war against the forces of evil. Do we need another World War to bring Catholics and God-fearing people all over the world to return to the practice of their faith? When I was a child, I learned early in life why we were created and what our destiny was supposed to be when our life on earth was over. We believed in God and an after-life. We can no longer take it

for granted that the same holds true today in the minds of many people, both here in America and abroad. Our Blessed Mother is the Patroness of our great country. She can help to bring us back to our Judeo-Christian roots. She is willing to help us. The question is, are we willing to prove ourselves worthy of her help?

Many times in the past (Guadalupe, Lourdes, Fatima) Our Lady intervened in our world to help us. She can do so again. Let's hope she does. We need help badly. But as we know, God helps those who help themselves. And we can help ourselves by trying to live by Gospel values and Bible admonitions. I often wonder why people are so reluctant to seek guidance by reading the Bible, instead of pretending that the Bible is irrelevant to modern day problems. Human nature doesn't change. God gave us the solution to all our problems. They are contained in The Ten Commandments. Unfortunately, they are banned in our public institutions. There was a time that our public schools included religious instruction as part of their curriculum. We all know what happened when they decided that religion had no place in our schools. Crime has flourished ever since. Should we be surprised?

Readers Write

J.B.: My brother had always been quiet but during this past year he became increasingly withdrawn and forlorn. He works as a carpenter and we know a few of the men he works with and they have commented on having observed this too. When we ask Jim about his situation he tells us he knows he's not feeling right but not to worry about it. He'll be fine. He's never been very large and we've noticed he's losing weight and doesn't have much appetite. We believe there may be something seriously wrong with Jim but have no way of finding out because he refuses to see a doctor. At first we thought his problem may have been psychological (depression or something) but perhaps it is medical. My sister has the Lourdes water from your place and we are going to ask Jim to let us give a portion of it to him for healing. I want to thank you in advance for the hope we are given by the Lourdes water, which we know has cured many people. We are hopeful that this can work with Jim. Please pray for us. **NV.**

J.S.: I am writing to express my gratitude to Our Lady for prayers answered. People don't understand how "present" Mary is in our lives as Christians, and she is a great intercessor for us all. **WI**

Affiliations

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what is both just and feasible.

Please send _____ bottles of the
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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

Gift Center

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

Order from The Lourdes Center

2017 CALENDAR.....\$5.00
Limited Supply ... Order Now!

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

Brown Scapular.....\$2.00

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

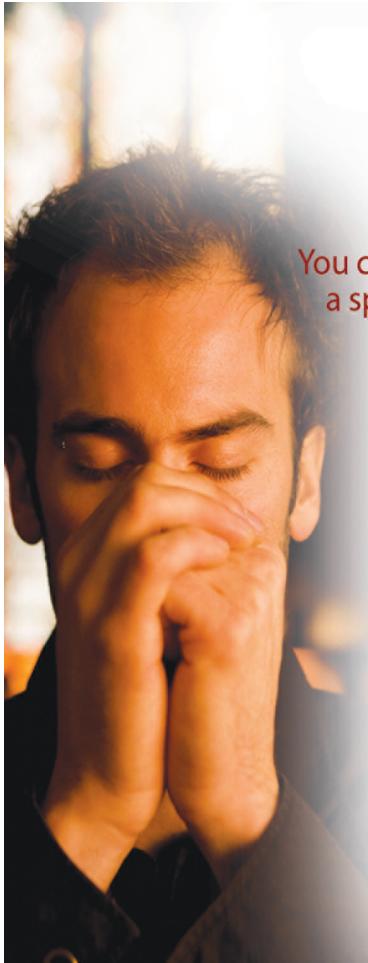
Our Lady of Lourdes pins.....\$3.50



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

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





On Friday, January 13 & Friday, January 27,
and Friday, February 10 & Friday, February 24,
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.

Requested
Address Service

Lourdes Centre
Marist Fathers
Lourdes Bureau
P.O. Box 15575
998 Beeson Street
Boston, MA 02115-2594
617-536-2761
www.lourdescenter.org
lourday@lourdescenter.org

A detailed illustration of the Virgin Mary in a white robe with a blue sash, standing on clouds. She is surrounded by colorful butterflies and flowers. The title "The Virgin Mary" is written across the top in a decorative banner.