

# *echoes* **FROM LOURDES**

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2017  
VOL. 9 NO. 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS

May the loving gaze of Mary,  
Mother of Mercy,  
bring You Joy & Peace  
throughout this Holy Season  
and always

— *The Marist Fathers & Brothers of The Lourdes Center*







FR. GEORGE SZAL, S.M.

## THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

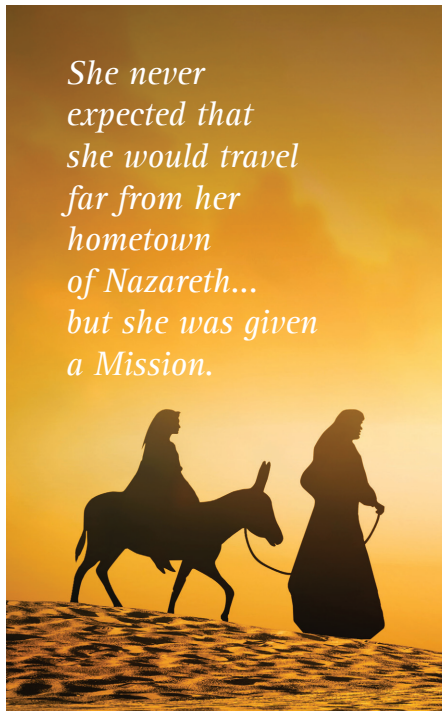
### Mary's Journey, and Ours

One of popular ways of describing the meaning of life is to say that it is a "journey" that begins with birth and ends with death. The problem with this figure of speech is that for us a journey has to have a purpose. For instance, if you were to ask someone on the bus, "Where are you going? Where did you get on? Where will you get off?" and he did not know, you would think that he is not quite sane, unless you had the same problem. Not knowing the real purpose of our lives we live in quiet desperation, like the man I met a short while ago.

His name is Jose and he said that from the time he was a young child he was filled with anger and hated everyone. Although he was baptized in the Catholic Church as a baby, his family, like many others, never really practiced their faith and never passed it on to their children. His parents were wealthy and gave him everything – toys, vacations, the best education, cars, etc. But he had not yet been told of the most important thing in life – that God loved him unconditionally. By the time he got to college he was in deep despair. He saw his classmates going to parties, dating, studying hard, hoping to get good jobs and get all of the things that he already had; things which never made him happy. Only when someone announced the Gospel to him, that God loved him personally, had taken flesh and died for him and wanted him to live forever with him did he begin to have hope. He found joy and entered into a journey of conversion.

Our Blessed Mother always knew the

*She never  
expected that  
she would travel  
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hometown  
of Nazareth...  
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a Mission.*



purpose of her life, that is, that she belonged to a people on a journey to God. She never expected that she would travel far from her home town of Nazareth, but after receiving an unexpected visit from the angel Gabriel was given a mission. Immediately after the angel left her, Mary "got up and went in haste" (Luke 1:39) to help her cousin Elizabeth. Although she was old and had been childless, Elizabeth, like Mary, was miraculously pregnant. This was true, as the angel said, "Because nothing is impossible for God," (Luke 1:37). Eventually Mary had to travel as far as Egypt, running from those who wanted to kill her child. There were many other travels and sufferings for Mary, and miracles as well, but the real journey for

Mary, as for Jose, was an inner one.

In his Gospel St. Luke says twice that in faith Mary turned things over in her heart. Talking with God and listening for His answers in Scripture and meditation, Mary found joy. She found her mission, to trust in God's love and share it with others. Like Mary, Jose found his mission. He joined the Church and entered seriously into the journey of faith and conversion. He married, and together they have twelve children. Every day they pray together as family. At every opportunity Jose and his wife pass faith to their children. At one point, at the request of the Holy Father, they even left their home, their jobs and their country to come to the USA and work for the new evangelization.

When people ask Jose, his wife or their children how they can be so free to move, to be happy with so many children and living with so few of the comforts and securities that we all think will lead to happiness, they tell them about Jesus. To anyone who will listen they announce the reason for their joy; that God has become one of us in Jesus Christ, that He has destroyed death and the fear of death. This is our mission too. With the help of Mary and the saints let's practice our faith, turn over the events of our life in prayer, find our joy and share it more zealously with others.

May you have a joyous Christmas, a blessed New Year, and Paradise at the end of your days!

*Fr. George*



# Christmas

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, S.M.

Christmas has the root meaning of: *Christ-Mass* or *Mass of Christ*. Those who would substitute “Happy Holidays” for “Merry Christmas” are omitting much more than the title: Christ. What is blanked out is the fact that the birthday of the Messiah-King is rightly celebrated in the supreme act of divine worship called: The Mass.

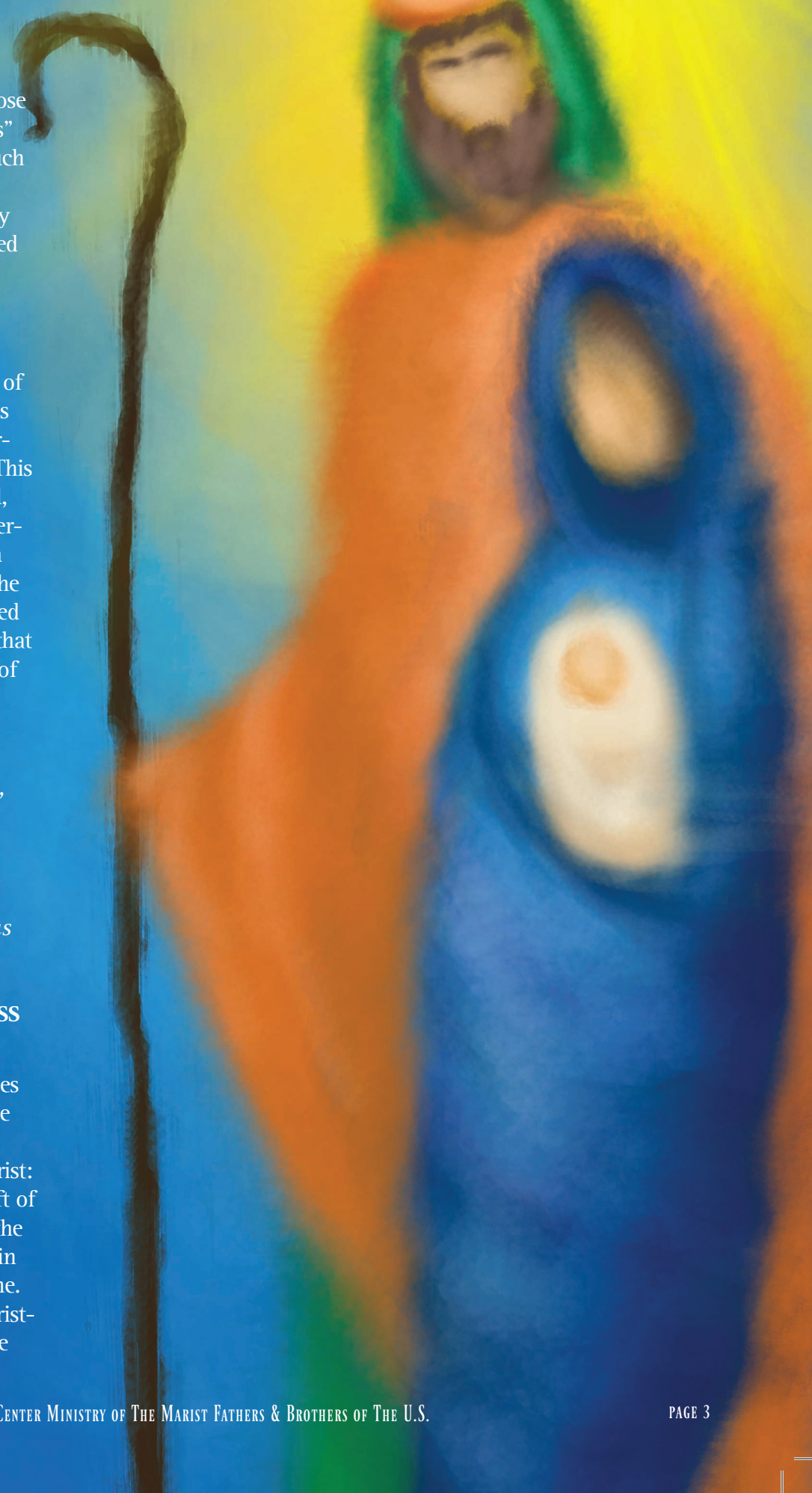
## Power of The Mass

Christmas prompts us to think directly of the birthday of the Christ-Child. This is the stupendous revealed truth of the arrival into the world of the God-Man. This union of the spiritual with the material, the divinity with the human fits wonderfully in the celebration of the Mass. In each instance, the birth of Christ and the Mass of Christ, the invisible is associated with the visible. It is no wonder then that St. John exclaims of the birth and life of Jesus among us:

*“What was from the beginning,  
what we have heard,  
what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked upon  
and touched with our hands -  
for life was made visible - the  
eternal life that was with the  
Father and was made visible to us  
- we proclaim to you.” 1 John 1, 1-3*

## Said of Jesus; Said of the Mass

Cannot the same be said of the divine presence of Jesus under the appearances of bread and wine as said of his divine presence in his physical appearance? After all, Jesus is present in the Eucharist: body, blood, soul and divinity. The gift of faith is active in both what John and the apostle saw in Jesus and what we see in the Eucharist: signs signaling the divine. What follows are signs at that first Christmas that prepare us for the signs of the Eucharist. *Please turn to next page*





*Christmas / Fr. Grispino*

Continued from previous page

## Mary's Sign

The angel Gabriel informs Mary that she will conceive a son who will be great and called Son of the Most High. To Mary's question that she has no relations with a man the angel assures her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow. Therefore, the child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God." Luke 1, 35-36

That this will come about, a sign is given, “And behold, Elizabeth, your relative has also conceived in her old age, and this is her sixth month for her who was called barren for nothing is impossible for God” Luke 1, 36-37 This sign was included in Mary’s act of faith, “May it be done to me according to your word.” Luke 1, 38

The promise of seeing this visible sign of Elizabeth's pregnancy of six months was to serve as an assist to Mary's belief in her own miraculous conception. (The greater miracle of Mary's conception was no problem with God as was the lesser miracle of Elizabeth's.)

## The Shepherd's Sign

They received the “Good News” of the Lord’s arrival from an angel who tells them that a savior has been born who is Messiah and Lord. And a sign is given, “...you will find an infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” Luke 2, 12 The sign was not a child in its mother’s arms, but a child placed in a manger from which animals are fed!



## The Magi's Sign

The star of Bethlehem was the sign given to the Magi who journeyed from the East. Upon arriving at Jerusalem, they inquired the whereabouts of the newborn king of the Jews. The star that first appeared did not abandon them. “And behold the star had preceded them... came and stopped over the place where the child was...and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother.” Matthew 2, 9-11

## The Eucharistic Sign

The appearances of bread and wine after the consecration of the Mass are signs of the divine presence of Our Lord and Savior. As the physical appearance of Jesus during his time on earth obscured his divinity, so now in the Mass the physical appearances of bread and wine obscure his divine presence: body, blood, soul, and divinity. Jesus was accessible during his lifetime on earth and still is accessible in the celebration of Mass today.

The Mass makes it possible that Jesus in the straw can become Jesus in our hearts.

Merry Christ – Mass everyone!

## TESTIMONIALS

**M**aciej Araszkievicz, a seminarian in Brookline, MA has reported that while at home in Poland, a friend of his went into a severe depression and jumped from the third story of his apartment. The man barely survived and was in intensive care at a local hospital when Maciej went to visit him.

Another friend from his parish gave him Lourdes water to take to the hospital. While praying in the room of his friend, and wondering what to do with the Lourdes water, the nurse asked him what he was doing. He said that he was praying with his friend and asked if he could sprinkle him with Lourdes water. The nurse said, “Give it to me.” She put it into the man’s IV.\* Maciej’s friend, eventually recovered and survives today with no after-effects except for a slight limp.

\*This was under medical supervision and is not recommended.

Jose Bengoa, who is mentioned in my letter on page two, tells me that during his family's last move, the children asked if they could have a house near a school, a playground and near the ocean.

Jose told them to ask the Blessed Mother to help them. They did and one week later they found free housing across the street from their new school, with a playground and a few blocks from the ocean! Mary loves to help her children.



## A message to our readers discussing *The Marists and Lourdes*

BY FR. GEORGE SZAL, S.M.

**W**e Catholics do not believe in luck. We believe in Divine Providence, that nothing happens by chance. This explains why I believe that it was by the grace of God and the gracious choice of Mary that Cardinal Richard Cushing, the Archbishop of Boston, asked us to take over bringing the blessing of Lourdes water to anyone in the United States or Canada who asked for it.

I am not sure where the funds came from to start the whole mission, but it was through the generosity of many donors that it began in the basement of Our Lady of Victories Church in downtown Boston.

Eventually it moved to its present location in a three story building near Fenway Park in Boston. The only reason that the Lourdes Center has continued to exist all of these years is because God and Mary want it. For over five decades we have survived solely on the prayers and the generosity of our many donors and benefactors.

We shouldn't be surprised by this because the Society of Mary ("Marists") itself has existed for over 200 years by the gracious choice of Mary whom we claim to be our first and perpetual superior. Our Founder, Fr. Jean Claude Colin, was studying in a seminary in Lyons, France at a time much like our own. The Church and society itself had pretty much been destroyed by the devastation of the French Revolution. Many



FR. JEAN CLAUDE COLIN  
FOUNDER, SOCIETY OF MARY

were allergic to the Church and were afraid that the Church would try to reassert the power and prestige that it once had under the monarchy. Fr. Colin and 11 of his fellow seminarians thought that the best way to meet this problem and bring help to those who were suffering from a lack of faith and meaning in their lives was to do it as Mary would...quietly, gently. The early Marists didn't want to necessarily be associated with any particular work in parishes, schools or missions, but to do whatever they were asked to do in the spirit of Mary. As Fr. Colin said, "They ("Marists") belong to the family of the blessed Mary, their model and superior. Let them constantly try to breathe her spirit. So they must think as

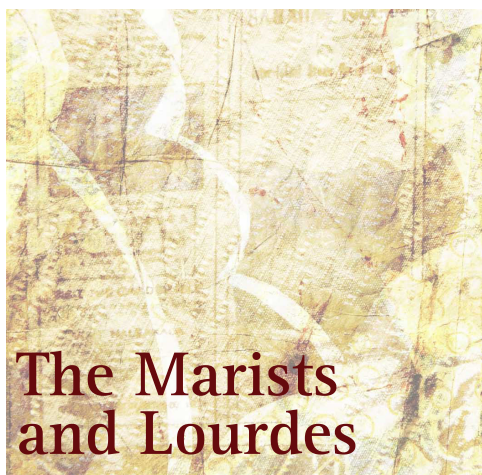
Mary, judge as Mary, feel and act as Mary in all things, otherwise they will be unworthy and degenerate sons."

Fr. Colin wanted this spirit to be embodied in an order of priests, of lay brothers, of sisters and even a Third Order of lay Marists. In fact, he wanted everyone to become a Marist, even the Pope! Marists, Fr. Colin thought, should do the work that others do not want to do, little missions that are hidden and unknown, putting Jesus and Mary first, and not ourselves. He said that we should consider ourselves "weak and useless instruments", "hidden and unknown in the world," like Mary. Hardly anything is said about her in the Gospels, yet she was the support of the Church in its beginning and will be so until the end of time. Fr. Colin believed that Mary wanted to be in the Church and in the world through us. And like the good mother she is, she looks after the littlest ones and the weakest ones, especially the sinners who need to know the mercy of God and who need to be approached gently. That's why I think that this little ministry that we Marists have at the Lourdes Center is perfect for us. We serve the sick and the suffering, most of whom are hidden away from society.

Bernadette and her family were hidden away. They were the poorest and most despised in Lourdes.

*Continued on next page*





## The Marists and Lourdes

*Continued from previous page*

They lived in an abandoned jail cell.

Her father, Francois, had lost his business and had been falsely accused of theft. Bernadette herself was sick for most of her life and never really learned to read or write until she was a teenager.

The one great wealth that they had was their faith and a life of intense prayer. They suffered a lot, but did not complain. At first Bernadette was persecuted a because of the apparitions she received. The town's people thought she was a fake or

crazy. However, it was through her littleness and humility that Mary was able to work through her to become an instrument of God's mercy for millions.

She never wrote a book, gave great speeches, or made a lot of money. She disappeared into a convent where, because of her lack of education, she was thought unfit for any of the works of her order. She died young. "The Blessed Virgin told me that I would suffer in this life, but be happy in the next." The one thing she was very good at was consoling the sick sisters, hidden away in the infirmary.

I am happy that we Marists have been chosen for this little work—this mission at the Lourdes Center, which is largely hidden and unknown. Most folks don't know we exist, and the work is definitely not a money maker; however, we are able to do a lot of good in our own

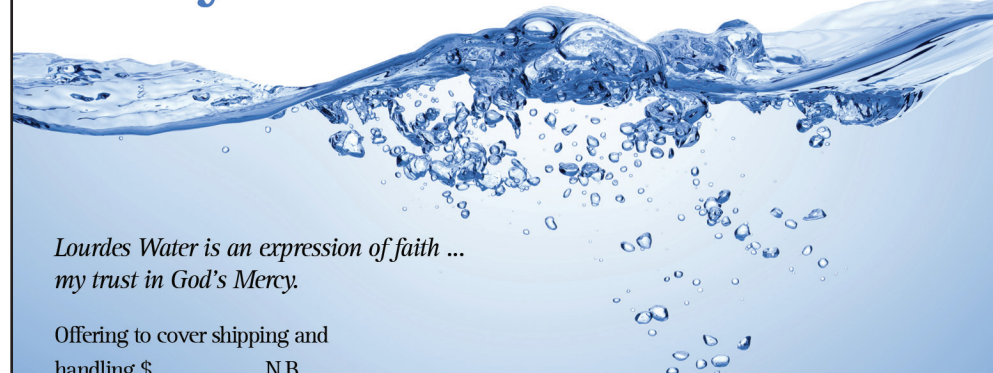
small way by helping to bring the message of Lourdes, of God's mercy, to others. (One other small connection we have to Lourdes is that for 11 years a Marist priest, Fr. Douce, S.M., was Bernadette's spiritual director. But this was not to puff him up with pride, since he probably got more out of it than she did!)

So, if you think that your life and work don't count for much, have faith and take courage. Like Bernadette, like Mary, do the littlest things with great love and you will be helping others to salvation without even knowing it. In fact, if you do, you are probably a Marist without even knowing it.

\* \* \*

Like at the Grotto in France, we here at the Lourdes Center do not make any profit from the Lourdes water from there that we send out to you. For over 50 years we have survived on faith and the generous donations of friends like you. *Thanks for your continued support!*

## Order your Lourdes Water



*Lourdes Water is an expression of faith ... my trust in God's Mercy.*

Offering to cover shipping and handling \$ \_\_\_\_\_ N.B.

A donation of \$3.00 per bottle is suggested to cover our expenses. We 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 allow 3-6 weeks for delivery*

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ bottles of water from the Shrine at Lourdes

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Does this person receive this newsletter? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
If not, should we send Echoes from Lourdes to them?  
☐ Yes ☐ No

*A Gift from You...*

**Give someone you care about a FREE SUBSCRIPTION to Echoes from Lourdes!**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

USE SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

*E-mail to:* [ourlady@lourdescenter.org](mailto:ourlady@lourdescenter.org)

*Postal mail to:*

LOURDES 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.*

QUINTUS MANOWAY, PA  
JOSEPH PECK, GA  
PIUS AKARAN, AK  
RALPH BUGLIONE, JR.  
PATSY BUGLIONE  
AGNES MINTER  
LOUIS MINTER  
ELEANORE R. FELTZ, WI  
MARIAN MCCARTHY, CO  
THERESA L. MIKE, AK  
DOROTHY GEORGE, WV  
JEANNE CLARK, WI  
HARRIET H. PELLERIN, HI  
THERESA AERTS, MI  
ELAINE FLORENT, MA  
MARGARET O'NEILL, NJ  
CAROL PINKERTON, OR  
WILLIE MAE HOLUB, TX  
FRANCIS KEYZER, WI  
ROSEMARY PAGANO, NY  
SR. PATRICIA GUTHRIE, MI  
EDWARD M. MOWBRAY, CA  
PATRICK MOWBRAY, A

ELAINE KELLMURRAY, NY  
MARGARET EGGERING, AL  
WILLIAM STANOSZEK, PA  
ROBERT M. CURRAN, MN  
THERESA R. KAMEROFF, AK  
GERALDINE B. MARCHAND, LA  
GEORGE OGAR, MA  
GRACE MCGINLEY, WI  
STANLEY VIDMAR, OH  
HANS FINK, CA  
KAY FINK, CA  
AURELIA A. O'BRIEN, IA  
ANTHONY ROMENELLO, NJ  
GENEVIEVE COLWELL, NY  
PAUL STEFFES, WI  
ELVERA CAMPANELLO, CT  
BOB ARESNAULT, MA  
SANDRA L. MUELLER, MN  
TONY AGOSTA, LA  
LOUISE AGOSTA, LA  
ROBERT EBELING, NJ  
MICHAEL MERCURIO, MI  
DOROTHY A. LOVELL, KS  
EVA BERRY, NJ  
MIA CAMPAGNA, IN  
LUCILLE KAY, IN  
ROSEMARY CRISMORE, IL  
MARY GASPERICH, IL  
MARY GRUBE, IL  
HENRIETTE BEZAIRE, CANADA  
LEONTINE TORKELSON, MN  
HAZEL ARMSTRONG, IL  
MALITA GOEB, MN  
RITA KOCH, IL  
ROSALIND TATE, PA

DENISE WILSON, TN  
JUDY LEVASH, WI  
CARL LOHMAN, MI  
JANET THOMAS, NY  
KATHERINE MARONEY, VT  
JUANITA MARAMARA, MD  
JESUS MARAMARA, MD  
J.C. MESSINA, LA  
HELEN YANKO, PA  
JOAN OPPEL, MD  
GEN WAGNER, MI  
HENRIETTE BEZAIRE, CANADA  
MARIA HEREDIA, MA  
CAROL BATTAGLIA, LA  
SECUNDO CUSIN, MI  
MARY CAPELLI, VA

## Spiritual Opportunities

### Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name of Deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Please send Purgatorial to:

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.

Please mail responses to: Marist Fathers, 698 Beacon St.  
P.O. Box 15575, Boston, MA 02215-0010

## Our Gift Center



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

**2018 WALL CALENDAR .....\$5.00**

*Limited Supply!*

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEDAL.....\$2.00  
IN GROTTO**

**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".....\$4.00  
BY FR. JOHN LYNCH, S.M.**

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

## Affiliations

*Remembrance in 50 Masses Yearly  
and at our Weekly Perpetual Novena*

Requested by: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_



On Friday, November 10 and Friday, November 24  
and Friday, December 8 and Friday, December 22,  
The Marist Fathers and 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: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

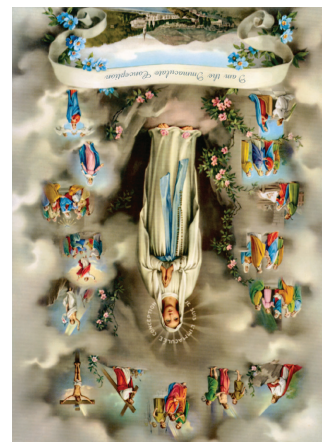
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Please direct your intentions, and any offering you'd like to send, to: Marist Fathers,  
698 Beacon Street, P.O. Box 15575, Boston, MA 02215-0010

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**Marist Fathers**  
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