

echoes

FROM LOURDES

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Basilica of the Immaculate Conception - Lourdes



FR. PHILIP PARENT, SM

THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

My greetings to you from the Lourdes Center in Boston! I pray that Our Lord will bless us all at this time as we have turned the calendar to the New Year of 2025. Some of you may have been present at New Year's Eve celebrations this year, but maybe not many of you, because if you are like me, you don't party so much anymore! I remember sitting with my mother watching TV on some New Year's Eves years ago when I was a seminarian preparing for the Marist life and the priesthood. In those days, I had an opportunity to be at home for the celebrations around Christmas time. On TV, we saw many thousands of people preparing to bring in the New Year in New York City's Times Square. Some of you may remember that, way back, the music was provided by a man named Guy Lombardo and his band. No pop or rock groups were part of the celebration back then! By the time 10:30 or 11:00 pm rolled around, my father was already in bed, so it was my mother, maybe another

sibling or two, and me looking on together. A countdown to midnight proceeded which gradually came down to a final few minutes as the crowds became more and more noisy (I thought these people were crazy, especially on really cold, snowy, or rainy New Year's Eves!) Then a ball began to drop a minute before midnight. When it reached the bottom, it lit up and then came cheers, confetti, and wishes for a Happy New Year, followed by the singing of "Old Lang Syne". Then we went to bed! Ahead was a family celebration of the New Year with a meal and an opportunity for our immediate family members present to enjoy the day together. But the first item on the agenda was to go to Mass that day. All those who believe in Jesus Christ, including we Catholics, recognize that more important than the secular celebration of New Year's is to bring in the New Year in an atmosphere of faith and prayer. We see that this time is an opportunity to thank God for the many ways we have been blessed and guided over the past year and also a chance to pray together that the Lord

will be with us in the year just beginning. We pray for peace and for many other things, including for the Church and our broken world as well as our own country. The Church helps us to look ahead to a new year with the liturgical celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1st. A Church Council proclaimed in the year 431 that the Virgin Mary can indeed be called not only the Mother of Jesus, but also truly the Mother of God. She was proclaimed the "Theotokos", Greek for the "God-bearer". It was Pope St. John XXIII who, in 1960, moved the celebration of this feast to January 1st, a change that the Second Vatican Council a few years later included in the Church's new liturgical calendar. Mary, she who was highly favored by God, is honored at the beginning of the year as the one who said yes to God's plan of salvation and bore the Savior, truly God and truly human. From the moment that our Lord Jesus became incarnate in Mary, he took on our humanity. So, in Christ, there is no longer God without human beings and human beings without God. To

call Mary the Mother of God reminds us that God is ever close to us, just as a child is close to the mother who bears him or her. God the Son took on human flesh not only to be with us, but also to be like us! This is something to ponder and to be grateful for as we continue to live out 2025. To all of you: may you have a Blessed and Peace-filled 2025. That same wish is also our desire for our world and all its people. From the Lourdes Center: May God bless you all!

Peace,

Fr. Philip Parent, SM

Director



A LOURDES MIRACLE

Elisa Aloï was born on November 26, 1931 in the Sicilian town of Patti. She was 17 years old when she became ill. She developed a white swelling on her right knee and a physician diagnosed the problem as arthritic tuberculosis. For the next 10 years, she developed numerous tuberculous infections in her bones and joints. She required frequent in-patient visits to hospitals and sanatoria. Despite being treated many times, recurrences of the disease happened over and over again. In desperation, Elisa went to Lourdes in June of 1957 with a group of pilgrims from Sicily. However, she didn't seem to benefit from her pilgrimage. She returned to Lourdes as a pilgrim in 1958, but in much worse condition, encased in a pelvis-to-foot plaster cast. Her dressings were soaked in Lourdes water daily. During her stay, she was cured instantaneously. Upon her return to Sicily, she visited her surgeon, who verified that she had come back from Lourdes completely cured. In 1960, the Medical Bureau in Lourdes also recognized her cure and presented her case to the International Medical Committee for examination. Her complete healing was accepted by members of this Committee and their testimony was handed over to her bishop, Archbishop Fasola of Messina. In May of 1965, he declared that Elisa Aloï's cure had been miraculous. Some months later, she was married and between 1966 and 1974, she gave birth safely to four children. This was seen by many as the best evidence of her complete cure.

WITH GRATITUDE

You may recall that we had a serious problem with a large outer wall on the northeast side of the Lourdes Center building. I called for help from those who could provide donations to assist us in repairing this wall. What was needed first was a temporary fix for the area where bricks and masonry had fallen and left a large hole open to the elements. The larger project was to do what was needed to properly mend the places in the whole wall that needed fixing; this included not only what was obvious but other areas that needed repair but were not clearly visible. You responded generously with donations that totaled about \$32,000. This included donations from those who told us the money was for the repair, so likely more donations came in without that specific notice. I thanked you back then and I thank you now! We remain very grateful for the generous help that many of you provided us. As it turned out, a structural engineer's examination of the wall revealed that the damage was much more serious than was first thought. Water had gotten into other parts of the wall and so large sections of the whole structure had been compromised. The work to be done was by a contractor that we trusted, one who had done a lot of work for us inside the building. It took a while to schedule the repair and then to actually have the repair done. The Marists in the United States paid for this final repair, which amounted to \$209,000. The building is the property of the Marist order in the U.S. and the work done guarantees the safety of the property for our ministry and that of the Marist priests who live here and also of those in the neighboring property. We are so grateful for the agreement of our Marist leadership to take on this large project. The work was completed around the first part of November. Thanks be to God!

A PRAYER OF DEDICATION TO MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

*O Mary, Mother of God and our mother,
we offer ourselves to your loving care.
Today we choose you as our mother, guide, and friend.
May we always be faithful to you,
and desire, say, and do only what is pleasing to you.
O most tender and loving mother,
we beg you through the goodness of our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Divine Son, to keep us especially dear to you
and to obtain for us the strength to lead a holy life:
a life of goodness, purity and love,
offered to God in thanksgiving and praise.
Be present with us at all times, O Blessed Virgin Mary,
and especially at the hour of our death.
Protect us from the Evil One and guide us safely
into the presence of Jesus, the Risen Lord,
so that we may, with you and all the saints,
share His life, happiness and love forever.
Amen.*

MARIST GUIDANCE

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, SM

The Dying and Rising

These two words in the liturgy of the Mass summarize the mysterious actions expressed in word and gestures in the Holy Sacrifice. But we must first begin with baptism.

Baptism

In retrospect, most may not be aware even now of their involvement in the dying and rising that took place at the time of their baptism. St. Paul reminds us:

“...are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. We were indeed buried with him through a baptism into death, so that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life” (Rom. 6, 3-4).

A short commentary is in order. In the early Church the candidate for baptism was immersed three times into the water. This was done after saying “Yes” to each question asked separately: “Do you believe in the Father?; Do you believe in the Son?; Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?” In the case of an infant, the parents or godparents answered

for the child. The one who is newborn, Christianized – made like unto Christ, – emerges from the watery grave, as if from a tomb, and is hailed as a sharer in the divine life of the Risen Christ.

Adulthood

What happened in infancy is now played out as an adult. The cleansing of one’s soul may need to happen again – a cleansing not from the inherited impersonal sin of Adam and Eve, but from sin or sins personally committed.

The intent of receiving Holy Communion says “I have returned to the innocence of my spiritual rebirth, not from dying and rising from a watery grave, but from dying and rising from bent knees – thanks to the Sacrament of Reconciliation

(Confession). Restored to a state of being a child, I am regenerated for a celebration.”

Celebrating: Dying With Christ

The Mass renders to us the presence of the Sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross. At the consecration, time stands still! What Jesus anticipated on Holy Thursday and actualized on the cross on Good Friday is made present to the eyes of the faithful. In the person of Christ, the priest says: “Take and eat, for this is my body given up for you; take and drink, this is my blood shed for you. Do this in memory of me.”

The double consecration of the bread and wine separated one from the other and changed into the Body and Blood of

Continued on next page



MARIST GUIDANCE

Continued from previous page

Christ signals to us the death of the Lord. This is our death too. For we have been Christianized, made a child of God in the Child of God and a member of the Body of Christ, the Head. By preserving, sanctifying grace and by daily dying to self-love in avoiding temptation to serious sin we find clarity in these words of Jesus, "He who loses his life" (false self-love) "will find his life" (true self in God's love).

Celebrating: Rising With Christ

As the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass concludes, the external appearances of the Body and Blood of the Lord become united when consumed both by the celebrant and the people at the reception of Holy Communion. The whole Christ is essentially consumed body, blood, soul and divinity. For the God we serve is a Living God who promises, "He who eats my flesh and drinks

my blood has everlasting life and I will raise him up on the last day." We become like the God we serve.

Summary

The Mass is a love-shout: Jesus says, "I love you" as shown by his death on the cross; we say, "I love you back" shown by our dying to self-love. Now that's something to celebrate!

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. 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 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

*Please allow 3-6 weeks
for delivery*

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

Postal mail to:

LOURDES CENTER

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.

YANIRA GARCIA-BARCENA, FL
 MRS. SANSIVIERO, NY
 HERMAN B. RAPOZO, HI
 BRO. LEONARD HALEY, MA
 DEBORAH GUMS, CA
 LEON ANDREWS, MA
 JOHN J. RYNDOCK, SR., PA
 MONIQUE BARNES, CA
 MARGARET KELLY, MA
 MARK MADORE, ME
 FLAVIA DUDLEY, ME
 JANET DELK, IL
 ELIZABETH TULIK, AK
 BARBARA POSNIEWSKI, MD
 JOAN CROTEAU, MA
 DOREEN VERREAULT, BC CANADA
 FRANCES GATHERALL, NL CANADA
 BERNADETTE JOHN, BC CANADA
 GARY BERTOIA, BC CANADA
 SR. BARBARA JO SCHNEIDER, S.M., NE
 SR. HELEN VIGIL, S.M., NE
 SR. ANN DIVIS, S.M., NE
 EUNICE LOVIO, MI
 MARY POLLINA, IL
 CLARA E. PIERSON, MN
 MARY MEIZIS, MA

CECILIA PRATT, TX
 ANNA CASTLEBERRY, CO
 MARY SHERIDAN, PA
 RICHARD KELLY, VA
 SR. ALICE MARIE, NY
 SR. M. KALINA, NY
 SR. PAULINA ERMIS, NY
 SR. MARY A. MARTINKA, NY
 ANNE WALSH, NL CANADA
 MARY LAWRENCE, ON
 MARGARET HAWRYLAK, PA
 MRS. CARLEEN REID, TX
 SHANNON BAKER, NY
 ROMAINE ROSAR, PA
 GERALD HARBAUGH, MO
 MOLLIE MURPHY, DC
 ROSE H. CLEMENTS, MA
 MARY JANE JACOBS, PA
 SR. MARY MORGAN, NY
 MARY DWORAK, PA
 LORETTA DIERKS, MO
 DONNA CARTER, VT
 CHRISTINE SCHAEFER, NY
 WILLIAM RUSHE, OH
 DIANE GALLAN, MA
 THERESA HELMINIAK, OH
 T. TRAYNE, IN
 DAN V. MURNANE, IL
 LEONA CRUZE, MN
 NANCY EVANS, MO
 FRANK AND GLORIA BUXKEMPER, TX

JOYCE MANKOWSKY, MA
 MARIA MORENO, NM
 KIMBERLY KMON, NJ
 ROBERT KUCHARSKI, IA
 DANIEL T. GOODNOW, MI
 TERRY KOZIKOWSKI, MI
 SISTER MARY CYRIL, CT

Purgatorials for the Deceased

Name of Deceased _____

Please send Purgatorial to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Requested by: _____

Suggested offering: \$20.00 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: Lourdes Center, 698 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02215-2594

Our Gift Center



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

- 2025 WALL CALENDAR (LIMITED SUPPLY).....\$10.00
- OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEDAL IN GROTTA.....\$5.00
- BROWN SCAPULAR.....\$3.00
- OUR GIFT FROM MARY SCAPULAR BOOKLET.....\$3.00
- BROWN SCAPULAR BOOKLET AND BROWN.....\$5.00
SCAPULAR
- GREEN SCAPULAR.....\$2.00
- BOOKLET: "LOURDES AND OUR LADY".....\$4.00
BY FR. JOHN LYNCH, S.M.

Please send your order with payment to:
 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

Affiliations

Remembrance in 50 Masses yearly.

Person to be Affiliated:

Requested by:

Offering

1 year: \$2.00; 3 years: \$5.00; Lifetime: \$10.00

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

On Friday, January 10 and Friday, January 24
and Friday, February 14 and Friday, February 28,
the Marists 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 prayer day when we offer special prayers and celebrate a Mass at our chapel for our extended Lourdes family.

Please send us your intentions: _____

Please direct your intentions, and any offering you'd like to send, to:
Lourdes Center, 698 Beacon Street, Boston, MA 02215-2594

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Lourdes.
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Lourdes Echoes



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