

# *echoes*

**FROM LOURDES**

July - August, 2025  
Vol. 16 No. 6

*A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS*





FR. PHILIP PARENT, SM

## THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

To all of you, greetings from the Lourdes Center in Boston! We're happy to provide the latest issue of "Echoes from Lourdes" to you. Our ministry here is ongoing, but you may not know that we have been at this for 75 years! Some history: In 1948, the (then) Archbishop of Boston, Richard J. Cushing, led a pilgrimage to Lourdes with about 500 Americans participating. Travelling by ship, they were the largest group of pilgrims from the U.S. up until that time. Archbishop Cushing was moved by his experience in Lourdes. In early 1949, the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, Bishop Pierre-Marie Théas, came to Boston. During the visit, Archbishop Cushing offered Bishop Théas the opportunity of founding a Lourdes Center in Boston. In their discussion, they came to an agreement. The hope was that the Center would provide water from the Lourdes Shrine to people in the U. S. and would sponsor future pilgrimages to Lourdes. Not long afterwards, Bishop Théas asked Fr. Cyr J. Parent, S.M., Provincial of the Marists' Boston Province, if the Marists would be willing to take on this project. In June 1949, the Superior General of the Marists, Fr. Alcime M. Cyr, S.M., sent a letter from Rome to Fr. Parent, authorizing the Boston Province to accept this proposal. In July 1950, Archbishop Cushing approved the founding of the National Lourdes Bureau of America, entrusting this ministry to the Marist Fathers and Brothers. The ministry was then established at a Marist parish, Our Lady of Victories Church on Isabella Street in Boston. The basement of the rectory served as the Center until it became necessary to find larger and more permanent quarters. In 1962, a building was purchased at 698 Beacon Street in Boston's Kenmore Square by the Boston Province. It became the headquarters for Lourdes Center ministry and sometime later, served as a residence for Marist priests and brothers. Besides providing a workspace for the Lourdes ministry and a residence for Marists, a chapel was erected on the first floor of the building, where Masses were celebrated and people could come for Confession. What began in 1962 continues today at the same location and with the same mission.

This July marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Lourdes Center and the establishment of our ministry. It's something to celebrate! We are very grateful for God's guidance and the loving intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes over these 75 years. We are truly thankful for all the dedicated lay people and religious who have worked at the Center and those who have volunteered countless hours over the years to bring us to this special anniversary. We are grateful too for the Marist priests and brothers who have lived here over the years and who have carried on the ministry of the Center with generosity and devotion. We are especially thankful for you – all who have supported our Lourdes Center by your prayers and your donations, all who write, email, or speak to us, asking for our prayers, for Lourdes water, or other items, and all those who are part of the life of the Center in person: those who come to Mass here or request the Sacrament of Reconciliation, those who pray in our chapel, and those who seek our help. We Marists believe that our life and ministry is an extension of the work of Mary – she whom we honor under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes, she who continues to cooperate in the mission of her Son with a loving and compassionate heart. As I close, I wish you all a blessed summer!

Peace,

*Fr. Philip Parent, SM*

Director

## *A LOURDES MIRACLE*

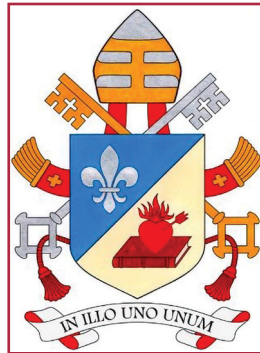
Vittorio Micheli was born on February 6, 1940 in the Province of Trent in northern Italy. On April 16, 1962, while a soldier in the Alpine Corps, Vittorio was admitted into a hospital in Verona for severe pain in his left hip. After various tests and a biopsy, he was told he had a malignant tumor, a sarcoma, on his hip. He received care at a military hospital, but no medical or surgical intervention had any positive effect. Deterioration of his hip continued relentlessly, resulting in total destruction of his hip joint. He went on a pilgrimage to Lourdes with his diocese in June of 1963. During the pilgrimage, nothing notable happened, except that he bathed in Lourdes water while encased from pelvis to foot in a plaster cast. Returning to Italy, he appeared in better shape, but because he was doing his military service, he was obliged to go back to the military hospital in Trent. There, more X-rays were taken of his hip, but they were incorrectly interpreted, being considered identical to his former ones. This accounts for why it was 6 months after the pilgrimage before proper notice was taken of Vittorio's excellent health, the absence of pain, his ability to walk and finally "the remarkable reconstruction of his hip", the first signs of which had already been present 5 months before! In 1967, the Lourdes Medical Bureau saw no reason to delay their opinion that "it was impossible to give any medical explanation for this cure." In 1971, the International Medical Committee at Lourdes confirmed the verdict of the Medical Bureau. In May of 1976, Bishop Alessandro Gottardi, with the favorable advice of his Canonical Commission, declared that this cure contained "sufficient evidence for the recognition of a special intervention by the power of God, Father and Creator." The cure was dated June 1, 1963, Vittorio's first day on pilgrimage. Beginning that same year and for many years afterwards, he came to Lourdes serving as a brancardier (literally, a stretcher-bearer) assisting sick and disabled pilgrims as they sought a cure themselves.





## LOURDES PILGRIMAGES

From time to time, we receive inquiries from people asking if we plan to sponsor pilgrimages to Lourdes in the future. We will not be sponsoring pilgrimages, but we can give you a list of some travel agencies that are Catholic or that sponsor pilgrimage to Lourdes and other Catholic shrines. Contact us by mail, by emailing us at [ourlady@lourdescenter.org](mailto:ourlady@lourdescenter.org), or by calling us Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm (ET) at (617) 536-2761 and we can provide you that list.



### A PRAYER FOR POPE LEO XIV

*Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd, Pope Leo XIV, a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By leading those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love and peace for all the world. Guide him to be a light and a source of hope and compassion for all in our world. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

# MARIST GUIDANCE

## Jubilee Year 2025

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, SM

Let's begin by saying, "Yes", the "door" at St. Peter's in the Vatican that heralds the opening of the Jubilee Year is a real door. In fact, it is unused and opened only at the start of the Jubilee. Until then, the door is sealed with cement from the inside.

### *The Door's Significance*

The symbol of the door is rooted in the Scriptures where we read in St. John's gospel about Jesus as the Good Shepherd: "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved and will come and go and find good pasture" (John 10,9). This imagery of Jesus as the gate/door becomes more real when we consider the position taken by a good shepherd. It is typical of a conscientious shepherd to be on the lookout for a naturally made enclosure wherein the sheep could be protected from thieves or ravenous wolves during the night. We heard Jesus speak of the good shepherd who is willing to lay his life down for the sheep. One way is the following: when a natural made corral is discovered, except for a space needing closure, the good shepherd would lie down, stretch out, and close the open space with his body!

### *A Pilgrim Church*

The "door", symbolizing Jesus our Shepherd guarding and guiding and constantly sustaining us with needed nourishment, strongly suggests that we are a people on the move, a Pilgrim Church, in search of greener



pastures and a permanent home. The modern traveler leaves the comfort of his home and goes off visiting attractive sights, city after city, living out of a suitcase only to yearn for the comfort of home-sweet-home. In contrast, where the modern traveler ends, the pilgrim begins. He is prompted to leave home and parish church to which the weekly visit and the sheer habit of coming upon its interior has lost its designed attractiveness. In some cases, one's personal faith has worn thin and is in need of reinvigoration. The call of a Jubilee Year may well be the cure needed because of its appeal for a renewed faith, hope, and love of God and neighbor. Most people

cannot travel to distant places like Rome on pilgrimage; going to a holy site designated by the local bishop may well be a lifeline to a more robust kind of faith.

### *The Designated Church*

Imagine the self-sacrificing Divine Shepherd as you enter the "door" of the church approved by your bishop as you behold a familiar sight: the altar, crucifix above the altar, the red lamp standing at attention witnessing to the Divine Presence in the tabernacle, statues of saints and angels, side altars on the right and left of the center altar, the stations of the cross, the stained glass windows with scenes seeking attention and recognition, flowers and the scent of incense, real or imagined, are the last to awaken the senses. The pilgrim notes the difference from his parish church sufficiently to awaken anew the mystery of the Divine Presence. A fresh faith surfaces from the unconscious. He is given new eyes to see with a new faith to believe. Such experience is what the Year of Jubilee hopes to achieve. That the Catholic Church enlivens the senses has Jesus to thank, he who began a trend on that first Christmas Day: to sense the divine through the human, Jesus, the very First Sacrament!

### *Plenary Indulgence*

This is key for a successful Jubilee.

*Continued on next page*

# MARIST GUIDANCE

Continued from previous page

There are three requisites:

First, set out on a pilgrimage, likely a short one; your bishop has chosen a church, shrine or other site to visit. Those who are suffering are asked to offer up their hardship and worrisome discomfort in union with the sufferings Jesus endured during his passion and cruel death on the cross.

Second, a combination of Confession and Holy Communion. Ideally, this is done before visiting the pilgrimage site.

Third, prayers for the intention of the Pope. Apparently, an Our

Father and Hail Mary would suffice. Some appreciable time is expected to be spent praying before the Blessed Sacrament, exposed or not.

## Closing Remarks

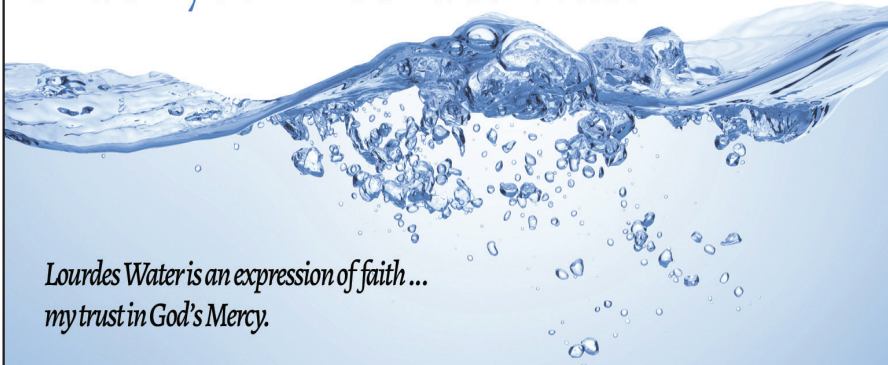
An indulgence expresses the bountiful generosity that the Church offers based on the infinite merits won for us by Jesus' passion and death on the cross. It is also helpful to understand that, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, sin and guilt that warrants eternal punishment is forgiven; yet there remains temporal punishment owed to sins because sin weakens the moral integrity of the soul. This is restored by penance

and forgiveness and, in that way, the robustness of the soul is rendered ready for entrance into heaven.

And now we come to full circle. The pilgrim has entered the "door" representing the Good Shepherd who said, "I am the door/gate; who enters through me will be saved..." By his suffering and sacrificial death on the cross, Jesus laid down his life for his pilgrim Church and won for us infinite merit. Jesus now bestows on the pilgrim forgiveness for eternal punishment and temporal punishment. In short, I would say Jesus has bestowed a Plenary Indulgence!

Happy Jubilee Year!

## 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 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)

**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.

- TERESA YACKLIN, OH
- AUDREY O'HARE, NY
- GEORGE MCNAMARA, MA
- MARGIE ZELLER, LA
- JULIA C. HOGAN, NH
- DORIS GALARDI, CT
- ANN SMITH, NJ
- JOSEPH MARTIN, MA
- ROBERT VIENNEAU
- LUCILLE ARRUDA, WA
- MARK PRANGER, SD
- THOMAS RAHILLY, MA
- LORRAINE LONG, PA
- ERNEST CAVALLO, NY
- ELLEN MURPHY, IL
- MARGARET ESPOSITO, CT
- JOHN TERMINE, CT
- JIM LEROY, CA



## 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.

- OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEDAL IN GROTTTO.....\$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, July 11 and Friday, July 25  
and Friday, August 8 and Friday, August 22,  
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

Published bi-monthly to promote devotion  
to Our Lady and interest in her shrine at  
Lourdes.  
Director: Rev. Philip Parent, SM  
Printed with Eccelesiastical Approval

### Lourdes Echoes



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698 Beacon Street  
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OurLady@LourdesCenter.org

*Address Service Requested*