

echoes

FROM LOURDES

March - April, 2026
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A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS



ALLELUIA!
HE IS RISEN!



FROM FR. PHIL . . .

FR. PHILIP PARENT, SM

Greetings to all of you who receive our “Echoes” publication by mail or in person at our Center! We keep all of you in our prayers. You are receiving this issue after Lent has been well under way. As Catholics, we’re very familiar with the rhythm of the Lenten and Easter season. It is our annual journey of joining with all Christians in uniting ourselves to the dying and the rising of Jesus.

One of the images that is part of the season of Lent is the desert. On the First Sunday of Lent, we heard, in St. Matthew’s Gospel, the story of Jesus’ going into the desert before beginning his public ministry (“At that time, Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.” Matthew 4: 1-2). The whole passage of that Sunday’s Gospel, Matthew 4:1-11, can be seen as an invitation to enter into the spirit of Lent by entering into the experience of Jesus himself.

I was blessed to have the opportunity to visit the Holy Land years ago. One day of my pilgrimage included a tour of several sites in the Judean desert, including the Dead Sea. I already knew that the nation of Israel was in a dry area of the world, receiving relatively little rain. But I learned that deserts, away from population centers, are **very dry**. Growing up in New England, I had never seen anything like it! Instead of trees everywhere, what trees there were appeared small and withered. So much of the Middle East and northern Africa is desert land, some all sand. But in Israel and the Palestinian territory, the desert is mountainous in places and very rocky. This is the kind of terrain that Jesus walked into and spent his 40 days. Like Jesus, we have 40 days for reflection and prayer. Lent calls us to take time to “go into the desert” as Jesus did, but spiritually speaking. We are called to take stock of our lives helped by the Holy Spirit. Our hope is to do away with sin and all that is not of God in our lives; we recognize that this is possible only with our contrition and our opening ourselves to the healing and forgiving touch of God. Jesus only desired to do the will of his Father in his life and we, in our hearts, desire to do the same.

There are times, especially in the spring, when there is rain in the deserts of the Holy Land. The result is the blooming of wildflowers where, for the rest of the year, there is only dust. Let’s pray that the Lord will bring rain upon whatever “deserts” there are in our lives. By God’s grace, may there be a blooming in our hearts, one that reflects the vision of the Prophet Isaiah,: “The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.” (Isaiah 35:1-2). May God bless you all this Lent and Easter!



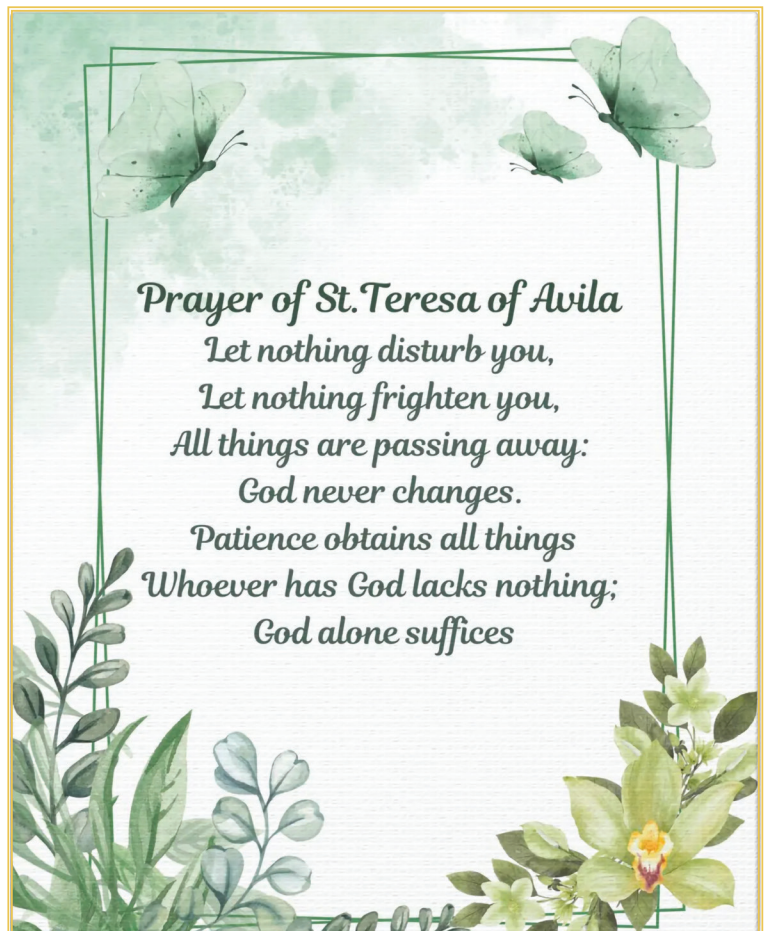
Peace,

Fr. Philip Parent, SM

Director

A MIRACLE

The miracle described here is one of the few that occurred outside of Lourdes. The person cured was Gabrielle Clauzel. She was born on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15th, 1894 in Oran, Algeria, in northern Africa. While in her 30s, she began to suffer from a painful spinal condition called spondylitis. This was a severe form of arthritis that was chronic and led to stiffness, nerve damage, and constant pain. She suffered from this condition for seven years, disabled and spending most of her time in bed. Over time, her illness affected other functions of her frail body to the point that her condition brought her closer to death. In 1943, on her birthday, August 15th, she was carried to the local church, about 100 meters from her home. After the celebration of Mass, all were amazed when she got up from her bench and returned to her home on foot, by herself! From that day on, she remained in good health and never had a relapse. After the end of World War II in 1945, she went to Lourdes and was examined by the Medical Board there. After examination, the viewing of X-rays, and the testimony of witnesses, the doctors agreed that her cure was complete, that her recovery had come suddenly, without treatment or convalescence, and that her cure was inexplicable medically. On March 18, 1948, Bishop Lacaste of the Oran diocese declared that her cure was miraculous. Gabrielle wished to spend the last years of her life in Lourdes to be near the grotto. She moved there in 1970 and died in 1982 at the age of 87.



MANY THANKS

We at the Lourdes Center keep you in our prayers and we are very grateful for your prayers for us and for our ministry. We truly appreciate the donations and bequests that come to us as well as the offerings for Lourdes water or the other things that we make available. Thank you for your assistance in helping us to meet our rising costs, which include the paying of postage and the heating and cooling of our building.



WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS

Two of our part-time workers have been struggling with health issues in recent months. We ask you to pray for Norman and Margarita: for their healing and for patience in dealing with their illness. Thank you in advance.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

We take this opportunity to wish a blessed Holy Week and a joy-filled Easter to you and all those you love. Our yearly celebration of the Lord's Resurrection fills us with hope because it reminds us that our destiny is eternal peace and joy in the Risen Lord's presence. We are able to taste that joy now, this Easter with a great sense of gratitude for the plan of our salvation that reaches its climax in Jesus' rising from the tomb. In Jesus Christ, we have healing, new life, and a hope that never dies. Alleluia!

From all of us at the Lourdes Center, Happy Easter!

EASTER PRAYER

*The veil of darkness
Transformed to the brightest light.*

*The most dreadful end
Became the most beautiful beginning.*

*The depths of despair
Fade to reveal hope everlasting.*

*The curse of death
Defeated by eternal life.*

Thank you Lord, for the wonder of Easter.

MARIST GUIDANCE

Defending Human Dignity

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, SM

In a recent address to the ambassadors convened at the Vatican, Pope Leo said, “The Vatican will always speak up to defend human dignity.” A prime example of undermining such dignity was the feeble comparison in defense of assisted suicide proffered by a politician seeking votes. “We put to death a horse to relieve its suffering. Why not do the same for a man who is suffering?” The answer, of course, is “A man is not an animal.” With a little thought, we appreciate the difference. If your dog shows its back teeth, it is not smiling. That is because man is blessed with intelligence. It takes understanding to see humor in a situation. Better yet, the wolf baying at the moon – even a full one – is in no way viewing its bright beauty. Intelligence is needed to appreciate beauty as well as humor.

Free Will vs. Animal Instinct

Not only is intelligence a distinguishing mark from the animal but free will is another. This ability to choose, to perform an action or refuse, is found in the natural law. This law is inscribed in the human heart. It dictates: Do good, avoid evil. It resides in man’s ability to sort things out, to reason and to choose freely between the good and the bad. We can speak then of man as a rational animal. There is a

towering difference between living by instinct and living by reason. Your overweight cat may pass up its food plate because it is sick whereas a human may do so because he is fasting. Herein we see the connection between intelligence and free will, which are common in humanity and not in animality.

Pervasiveness of This Natural Law

This law is called natural because it has been with man since creation. It is part of his DNA as well as in human history. Confucius, a sage living in 400 B.C., stated that a person has the obligation to prevent a child who unknowingly is headed toward the brow of a cliff. St. Augustine, living in 400 A.D., is known to have referenced this law of nature

when in his memoirs writes, “Sin itself cannot obliterate it.” The Ten Commandments given in the Old Testament turn the spotlight on some specifics of what evils are to be avoided. But there is yet the New Testament that gives the basics which sum up the whole law: Love God and your neighbor as yourself. This is all in preparation for what follows.

The Primary Source of Human Dignity

Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...God created man in His image; in the divine image He created them; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1, 26-27). God’s image is Trinitarian, a family of Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This social unit is

Continued on next page



MARIST GUIDANCE

Continued from previous page

reflected in the basic unit of the human family: Father, mother, and child. In the Divine Family, the Father, from all eternity, begets the Son, the reflection of Himself. There is no time in eternity which means there was not a moment when the Son did not exist apart from the Father.) The love between the Father and the Son is so stupendous that the Holy Spirit is begotten from both the Father and the Son, from all eternity. (There was never a moment that the Divine Persons existed apart from one another.) The divine unit, as family, is reflected, even if dimly, in the human family: The father to be loves his wife, she in

turn reflects his love, and in nine months it's given a name.

From Dignity to Destiny

This destiny may be clarified in the following scenario: God became man in Jesus Christ so that man can become Godlike. This principle of the superior elevating the inferior has a history that unfolds. Plant life takes up into itself what is interior, the earth. It's as if the plant says to earth with its minerals and nutrients "Allow me to elevate you to the plant and vegetable life." The animal says to the plant and vegetable life, "Allow me to elevate you to a higher life of the animal that is able to see and hear

and be mobile." Man says to the animal, "Allow me to elevate you to an even higher life, to become a human creature blessed with intellect to know God and a will to love God and become master of all creation." The Creator (a drumroll is warranted here) says to the superior being of all that is created, "Allow me to bestow upon you the gift of becoming Godlike!" Man, born in time, is now elevated to live eternally. He shares in the very life of the Triune God by knowledge and love. Man becomes like the God he worships! Therein lies man's dignity.

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*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

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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*

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**Give someone you care about
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Name _____

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City _____

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USE SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

E-mail to: 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.



JOHN M. FOSTER, PA
 ALICE MCGONAGLE, MA
 JULIE SALEK, MI
 MONTE BERTRAND, PA
 MILDRED SCHNELL, MD
 DAVID J. LEBLANC, WI
 ESTHER PONZO, PA
 LAURA S. FREEMAN, HI
 FR. CHARLES R. EIS, CA
 ELTA ZENS, SD
 THOMAS ROCHE, MA
 DIANE ROSAMOND, LA
 DOREEN JENNER, IL
 KATIE CURTIS, AK
 LARRY JOHN, AK
 ALICE PITKA, AK
 JAMES AND JOAN BRODE, PA
 REV. WALTER, L. GAUDREAU, S.M.
 VIVIAN B. MAILHOT, MN
 MARJORIE A. MUZYKA, TX
 GLADYS ROSSI, OR

CONSTANCE SHEA COPEL, CT
 FLORENCE DENOMME, AZ
 CHUCK DIFASI, NY
 ROMAINE FONVILLE, CA
 SR. LIZ KERWIN, MN
 SR. M. ELAINE PETERS, PA
 SYLVIA GIETZEN, ND
 BETTY BENNETSEN, TX
 DEBBIE SUTTER, OH
 MARY SCHENSE, NE
 SR. LAVERNE GRIPPE, O.S.F., PA
 PATRICIA PARKER, PA
 EDITH BOEHM, MI
 DAWN & MELVIN REYNOLDS, IA
 ELIZABETH WILSON, MA
 ROSE D. JOHNSON, MN
 JANET EICK, FL
 FLORENCE HOAG, MI
 JANICE WALLACE, MO
 ROSEMARIE BEDNAR, CA
 REV. JOSEPH J. MCLAUGHLIN, S.M.

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 AND BOOKLET	\$5.00
GREEN SCAPULAR.....	\$2.00
BOOKLETS BY FR. JOHN LYNCH, S.M.:	
"LOURDES AND OUR LADY"	\$4.00
"THE LADY HAS HER WAY"	\$4.00

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, March 13 and Friday, March 27
and Friday, April 10 and Friday, April 24,
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 Echoes



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