

echoes

FROM LOURDES

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A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS





FR. PHILIP PARENT, SM

FROM FR. PHIL . . .

From the Lourdes Center in Boston, I ask God to bless each of you who read this! Spring has sprung and, for many of us, not a moment too soon! The cold and snow that a lot of us experienced this winter are now in the past and we can enjoy the beauty of this blessed season. Many of you in the U.S. and Canada will receive this issue just before (or just after) Mother's Day, which is celebrated this year on May 10th. It's a special day to give thanks and to show our love and appreciation to our mothers and grandmothers, who mean so much to us. We also remember and honor our mothers who are now deceased and whom we pray are with the Lord in heaven. Let's not forget the many women who have been like mothers to us – women who have loved us and nurtured us in so many ways – teachers, sisters in religious orders, special relatives and friends, and more. There is something that I remember each Mother's Day. Some years ago, I read a post on Facebook from a former classmate that was about Mother's Day. Here is what she wrote, slightly edited: *“Every year my children ask me the same question: What do you want for Mother's Day? After thinking about it, I decided I'd give them my real answer: **I want you.** I want you to keep coming around and bringing your kids. I want you to ask me questions, tell me your problems, ask for my opinion or for my help. Tell me about your job, your worries, your joys. Raid my refrigerator and help yourself; I really don't mind! Come over and let's have a laugh together. Hearing you laugh is music to my ears. I want you to continue sharing your life with me. I want you and your family to be happy and healthy – that is my prayer. I spent the better part of my life raising you the best way I knew how. Now, give me time to sit back and admire my work! I want you to spend your money making a better life for yourselves and your family. I have all the things I need. When you ask me what I want for Mother's Day, I can say ‘nothing’ because you've already been giving me my gift all year. **I want you.**”* Taking in what this mother said to her children led me to ask this question: What would Mary, the Mother of Jesus, the Mother of God, and our Mother too, want from us? (We can ask the same about Jesus or the Blessed Trinity). We pray the Rosary or other special prayers, we honor our Blessed Mother as we attend Mass or watch it if we can't go to church any more, and we do other things that show our love for God and Mary. But I believe that most of all, **they want us.** They are a part of our lives in a very profound way and they invite us to be in union with them as we live our daily lives. I know that they truly appreciate what we do out of love for them, but I believe that they most want us to share our lives with them – to be present to them in our joys and sorrows and all the ups and downs of our daily lives. Mary and our Lord Jesus, who are one with us in everything, want our hearts; they invite us to join ourselves to their loving hearts– hearts that are honored traditionally as the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Maybe this is something for us to reflect on this month. Now, this is my prayer for you, from the Marist priests with whom I live and all those who are part of the ministry of the Lourdes Center: May God bless and protect you and your loved ones this spring!

Peace,

Fr. Philip Parent, SM

Director

LOURDES MIRACLE

LOUISE JAMAIN

Louise Jamain was born on November 5th, 1914 in Paris. As a young woman, after a stay at the Laennec Hospital, she was diagnosed as having “pulmonary, intestinal, and abdominal tuberculosis”. This came after her mother and four brothers had all died from tuberculosis. Louise had been hospitalized, with only a few interruptions, for seven years. In desperation, she expressed a desire to go to Lourdes. She received advice from all those close to her not to go; their fear was that she would die during the journey. In 1937, she joined a pilgrimage with other young women from Paris that was to take place from March 28th to April 4th. The trip to Lourdes and her first days there were very difficult. She had several hemorrhages and, on March 30th, she received the Sacrament of Extreme Unction because it seemed that she was near death. Two days later, on the morning of April 1st, she awoke perfectly rested, with no symptoms, and she asked for some food. There was no doubt in her mind that she had been cured. On the 3rd of April, she was examined by the Medical Board at the Lourdes Shrine, and it was noted that she was without any signs of tuberculosis. Back in Paris on April 4th, she returned to the Laennec Hospital. The doctors there were utterly amazed that there were no lesions or infection where she previously suffered from tuberculosis. In a few weeks, she found work, which she was able to do without difficulty. Louise never suffered a relapse. After taking into account the findings of a Canonical Commission that was appointed to study her case, the Archbishop of Paris, Maurice Feltin, declared on December 14th, 1937 that Louise’s cure had indeed been miraculous. A few years after that declaration, she was married and had two children. Before her death, she was able to celebrate the 50th anniversary of her miraculous healing in 1987.



Readers Write

Dear Fr. Parent,

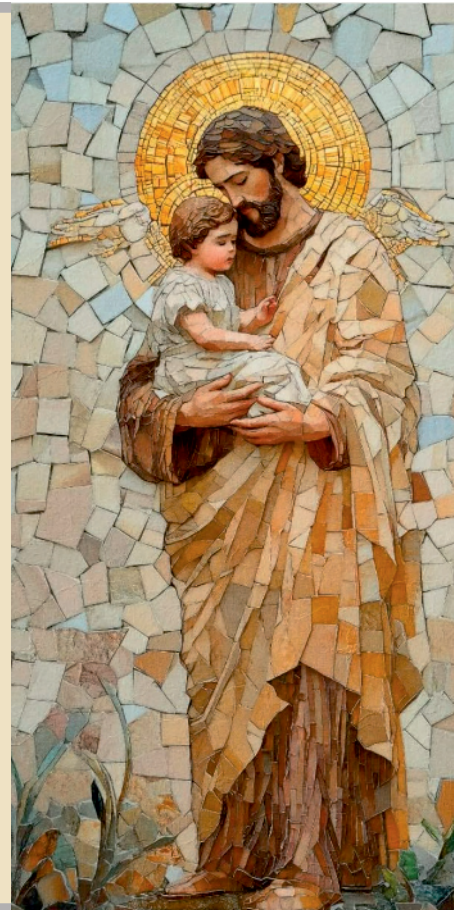
Devotion to our Blessed Mother is very important in my daily life. I am 91 years old and in good health. Recently however, I pulled a back muscle that caused a great deal of annoyance, not to mention pain. Even pain in my feet and all the way up my legs to my lower back. For four weeks, I limped around. Pain killers did not help. Finally, on Sunday, October 26, the pain gradually left. I believe my devotion to the Most Holy Rosary was essential to obtaining this relief. I can walk unaided now and am able to use the stairs as I need to as I go about my daily tasks of cooking meals and doing laundry. My husband is 97 years old and we live independently in the home we created 37 years ago. We enjoy reading "Echoes of Lourdes". May Jesus and his Blessed Mother continue to shower blessings upon us. Sincerely, T.C., VA.

Dear Father Phil,

Enclosed is a donation for the Lourdes Center. We are so grateful to have the ability to obtain the Lourdes water we so desperately want and need. Over the years, I have requested it for myself, my husband, and many others. I have used your Lourdes water since I had breast cancer in 1990. I thank our Blessed Mother every day for this gift to us all! God bless you and your Lent and Easter. L. & P. H., NY

A PRAYER FOR FATHERS

*Heavenly Father, you entrusted your Son Jesus, the child of Mary, to the care of Joseph, an earthly father. Bless all fathers as they care for their families. Give them strength and wisdom, tenderness and patience; support them in the work they have to do, protecting those who look to them, as we look to you for your love and protection. We offer this prayer in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives forever and ever.
Amen.*



MARIST GUIDANCE

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, SM

Love Without Alloy

An alloy can be a toxic strain, a foreign element found in a metal: for example, in steel. Such a combo weakens the pristine quality of the metal and is in need of being purified in an otherwise perfect building material. This is also true when reflecting on one's journey in the spiritual life. If not singled out, it will detract from the integrity of such a pursuit. What happens is that God is not only short changed but robbed of the expected thankful praise and gratitude. The following poem by Elizabeth Barret Browning explains:

Earth is crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire
with God,
But only he who sees takes off his
shoes,
The rest sit around and pluck
blackberries.

It should be noted that the gift can be so absorbingly delightful (blackberries) that the giver can be ignored outrightly. This brushoff leaves the pluckers, unlike the seers, blind to the holy ground on which they stand and thereby unresponsive to rendering due reverence and praise. At this point, it is obvious that the poem speaks of God, the Giver of all gifts, spiritual and material. The poem teaches how the gifts of God can deflect us from rendering God due gratitude.



Pray-er Beware

The poem may well serve as an illustration of a danger in one's journey in the spiritual life: Becoming addicted to consolation in prayer. To seek delights in prayer is self-centered when it is meant to be God-centered. It is not meant only to reap pleasurable returns. It is a halfway marker for temporary encouragement on a persistent journey of purification, to be cured of self-interest, and be prepared for union with God, even to some limited extent – this side of heaven. Feelings are not to be manufactured but accepted if willed by God.

Seers and Pluckers at Mass

Pluckers are they who seek out warm and cozy feelings during Mass, especially at Communion time. Here the general rule

applies: To thank God for such experiences but not to seek out such consoling feelings nor encourage them. Mass invites us to be aware of the Crucified Christ. This is expected to be our understanding when the celebrant invites us, "Pray that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the Almighty Father."

Seers are very much aware by this invitation to "offer" their sacrifice. It is something very available and always close to the worshiper. What might that be? It is always available, closer than one's breath, ready to be offered, and is something most appreciated by God. The seer realizes he or she is on holy ground and with shoes off, offering himself in union with the Head of the Mystical Body of which he is a member, Jesus.

Continued on next page

MARIST GUIDANCE

Continued from previous page

Disinterested Piety

Piety is what persists apart from religious feelings. It calls for faithfulness no matter the difficulty.

Job demonstrates true piety when, in the midst of his suffering, cries, "We accept good things from God; and should we not accept evil?"

Job shows holy indifference to feelings whether in good times or bad, come what may.

Job trusts in God as this chilling cry touches the heart, "Let him kill me if he will; I

have no other help."

Jesus on the cross in his dying breath in a loud voice exclaims, "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit" (Luke 23, 46).

St. Paul associates love with piety when stating, "Love bears all things...endures all things (1Cor 13,7).

St. John of the Cross, Doctor of the spiritual life, gives us a sign of being at the threshold of contemplative prayer: God-centered prayer

dominates self-centered prayer. Prayer then becomes purified. In other words, when love becomes untainted – without alloy.

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.



EDWARD F. STEFANIK, MA
 CECILIA UHLIG, PA
 SHIRLEY BROSKA, IL
 GARY HOLDEN, MN
 JUDY HOLDEN, MN
 DOROTHY IVERSON, SD
 JOHN F. ROWE, MA
 ALMA SCHULTE, MN
 ROBERT WIEBER, MI
 ANDREW NUCCI, MA
 EUGENIA AND LOUIS ANTICICH, PA
 LISA MOSS, LA
 LOURDES VALDES-FAULY, FL
 SUSAN KRAWIEC, CT
 CLAIRE D. SHEEHAN, FL
 MARY KLOSTERHOFF, MO
 MARY LOU VIECK, IN
 SR. J. LYNCH, OP, NY
 ELLEN M. ZIZIBIN, NY

OLGA RESO, LA
 ROBBIN O'DWYER, TX
 SR. GRATIA FRAWLEY, PA
 P. & N. ZELENAK, CANADA
 ANDREW NUCCI, MA
 MURIEL BACHMAN, MN
 THOMAS CATENA, CA
 EVELYN DREYER, OH
 MARSHALL IRIGOIN, MT
 JAMIE ITENEYER, MD
 FLORENCE JOACHIM, SD
 BLANCHE KLEIN, MO
 LEE LARKEY, MN
 FRANK MC MENAMIN, KY
 MICHEL TAMAYO, MO
 BERNADETTE JOHN, CANADA

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.

BROWN SCAPULAR OR BOOKLET \$3.00

BROWN SCAPULAR AND BOOKLET \$5.00

GREEN SCAPULAR AND BOOKLET \$3.00

BOOKLETS

LOURDES AND OUR LADY BY FR. JOHN LYNCH, SM \$2.00

THE LADY GETS HER WAY BY FR. JOHN LYNCH, SM \$3.00

SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES \$3.00
 (ILLUSTRATED – AGES 10 AND UP)

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, May 8 and Friday, May 22
and Friday, June 12 and Friday, June 26,
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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