

echoes

FROM LOURDES

November - December, 2025
Vol. 17 No. 2

A PUBLICATION OF THE LOURDES CENTER ♦ MARIST FATHERS AND BROTHERS



Lourdes in Winter



FR. PHILIP PARENT, SM

THE DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Greetings to all of you, friends of the Lourdes Center! As we move into the month of November, we Americans look forward to the celebration of Thanksgiving (our Canadian readers have already celebrated their Day of Thanksgiving in October). The celebration of the Incarnation, the coming of God among us in the birth of Jesus which we commemorate at Christmas, is not far behind. We look forward to these holidays weeks in advance. But there may be things that bother us in the midst of the joy of this coming holiday season. What about the reality of the state of our world and our nation? Are we disturbed that we are so fortunate in comparison to so many in the world of today, many of whom won't have much to celebrate in the weeks to come? Is there anything that we can do to make things better for others?

I think that many of you are familiar with a simple prayer called the Serenity Prayer. It is attributed to the American Christian theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr, who used it in a sermon almost 100 years ago. With changes that came over time, this is the version that comes down to us: "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference." It is a prayer that is at the heart of the philosophy of Alcoholics Anonymous and the many other 12 step groups that have helped millions to break the bonds of addictions to things like alcohol, drugs, and gambling. The prayer asks three things of God: First, the serenity to recognize that there are things we cannot change or control. We see so many problems in our world like wars and other conflicts, the evil actions of others, suffering of all kinds, sickness, political and social divisions in our country and elsewhere – things we can't control. It's so easy to feel helpless and hopeless in the face of all of this. We feel discouraged sometimes about divisions within our own families, about the suffering of those we love, and other things that are out of our control. But the second gift we ask from God is the courage to change the things we can, along with the third gift that is the key – the wisdom to know the difference between what is possible and what is not. We can pray that God will do what we cannot – to do the "heavy lifting" that Fr. Grispino refers to in his article in this issue of Echoes. But we can also pray for God's help to influence us, our Church, and all people of good will to make our world a more holy, just, peaceful, and loving place. And there are other things we can do with God's gift of courage. We can vote and work with others to support what is good in our world, our states, and our communities. There are people and situations and circumstances that we can influence and help change for the better. We can love and forgive and ask pardon from and encourage and support those that are part of our lives or others who are not in our usual circle. In prayer, we can ask for the inspiration to do something – just one thing - that would help make our family, our neighborhood, our parish, our home or residence better. Even the smallest thing, done in love, makes a difference. I believe that sometimes, who or what needs changing is us or in us, not others or in other people. Our attitude, our treatment of others, or our outlook on the world may be what needs to be looked at and, with God's help, changed. We may not be as far off the mark as the character Scrooge is in the tale told by Dickens in "A Christmas Carol", but with the gifts of courage and wisdom, we can change and help lift others up during these coming days of celebration. May God bless and guide us all in the celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas!

Peace,

Fr. Philip Parent, SM

Director

A LOURDES MIRACLE

Miss Marie Lebranchu was born in 1857. As a young woman, she began to suffer from pulmonary tuberculosis. Over the course of years, the disease became progressively worse. At one point, Marie's illness became so severe that doctors said that she had reached the terminal stage of her disease. In 1892, Marie joined a group pilgrimage to Lourdes with others from the area of Paris. At this point, she weighed only 60 pounds. While there at the Shrine, she went to the baths seeking a cure. Coming out of the baths, she was completely cured of her tuberculosis. The date was August 20, 1892; Marie was 36 years old. She was examined by the Medical Bureau of Verifications in Lourdes and there was agreement that there was no medical explanation for her cure. On June 6, 1908, Leon-Adolphe Amette, Archbishop of Paris, declared that Marie's healing from tuberculosis was miraculous.



WORDS OF ST. BERNADETTE

“I shall spend every moment loving. One who loves does not notice her trials or, perhaps more accurately, she is able to love them. I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home. There I shall find my Mother in all the splendor of her glory. I shall delight with her in the joy of Jesus himself in perfect safety.”



GRATITUDE

We who are part of the Lourdes Center are so very grateful for your prayers, support, and contributions as we carry on our ministry in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes. This is her ministry! We take this opportunity to send you all our holiday greetings. May you all have a Blessed and Happy Thanksgiving! Indeed, there are so many things to be thankful for! We offer you our best wishes for a holy season of Advent, which this year begins on November 30. And may you all have a Merry and Blessed Christmas and Christmas season! We pray for you, your families, and your friends during these special weeks ahead. May you all be blessed by our Savior, Jesus, at Christmas and through the New Year of 2026.

In the Midst of Winter

Lord:

In the midst of Winter, when the days are cold and wind can pierce remind us of the warmth of your love.

In the midst of Winter, when days are short, dawn comes late, and dusk arrives early remind us that in the darkness your light still shines.

In the midst of Winter, when the flowers of spring still lie hidden in the earth, when leaves are off the trees, and the world can seem bleak, remind us that Easter is but a short time away.

And when in our lives we feel as if we are experiencing a season of winter, reach out to us with the power of your resurrection so that we may feel the warmth of your love and see your light that alone can take away the darkness of our soul.

~ Cal Wick

MARIST GUIDANCE

Do What You Can, God Will Do What You Can't

BY FR. FRANCIS A. GRISPINO, SM

There is a story about a youngster who entered a town race in the hope of winning the monetary prize. The money would go to his grandmother who is in dire need in meeting the cost of co-pays for her prescriptions. There is a lesson here, but it will be taken up at the close of this article.

The Lourdes Center, here in Boston, sits squarely overlooking Beacon Street where thousands of Marathon runners pass before they reach the finish line just 1 ½ miles away. The race takes place annually on Patriots' Day, which is celebrated on the third Monday of April.

The race attracts runners from around the world and seems to be a catalyst for groups of the young and old to gravitate to walk-a-thons around the city of Boston. These events are charitable enterprises as the participants seek out donors to give money for each mile walked. The funds raised are for charity, such as The Jimmy Fund for cancer research. These events are well advertised.

If charity is the queen of all virtues (1 Cor 13, 1-13), the organizers of these endeavors must be close to God – the source of this virtue. They can only set the desired goal and

leave the rest up to God. This is true of organized fundraisers, and it is also true of someone who embarks on a charitable cause as the following story explains.

A Charitable Cause

This woman takes up a personal quest for a relative in need. A cousin gives birth to a baby boy, but there is a problem. The parents are told that the infant is in dire need of a special kind of helmet to assure a round shape to his skull; otherwise, the one-sided abnormal growth would impede walking straight. If this were to happen in the U.S., Medicaid might defray the expenses, but the parents in need are in Brazil. The least amount for the helmet required to solve the abnormality is

\$4,000. The relative living in the U.S. is in the process of aiding the parents to meet this expense. Needless to say, time was of the essence if the abnormality were to be stemmed. She takes odd jobs and begs those in her social circle to donate. This woman was explaining the situation to a clerk at a store when a shopper overheard the conversation. The stranger's heart was touched and gave a \$100 donation on the spot. In the end, the cousin in the U.S. raised enough money so that all that was needed was \$1,000, which the parents raised by taking out a loan using personal assets as collateral. The goal, though challenging, was finally met: man cooperating, God delivering.



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MARIST GUIDANCE

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The Lesson

And now we revert to our opening parable-like story: The young man who seeks to help his grandmother financially by winning the top prize in a race.

The youngster realizes that using his flip flops in the race will be a problem. His only recourse is to use an ill-fitting pair of oversized shoes. As the finish line looms in the distance, we hear the words he repeats in a prayer, "Lord, you pick them up, I'll put them down,

you pick them up, I'll put them down, you pick them up, I'll put them down."

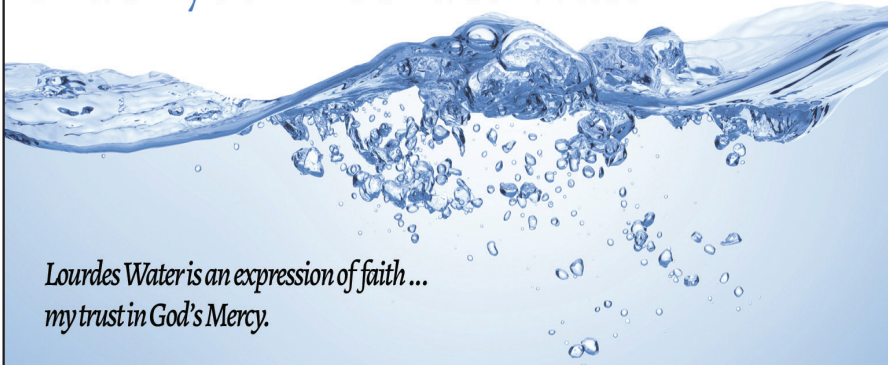
Conclusion

Isn't this the truth! We do all we can in resolving our problems and leave the rest up to God who makes up for our deficiencies. In short, we pray, "Lord, I'll do what I can, you do the heavy lifting". So, it is in the race toward eternal life. The goal, though challenging, can be met: man cooperating, God

delivering. With God's grace, no cross is unbearable. "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Cor 12,9).



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

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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 _____

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City _____

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Name _____

Address _____

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.

GERRY BERTULA, BC
 ANNE WALSH, NL
 CLARA R. DELGADO, CA
 RUTH E. ECKHARDT, PA
 NED LEMIEUX, NY
 CYNTHIA BROWN, IL
 LINDA ROONEY, KY
 MARY MANGERS, IA
 ALBERTA HOOSE, OK
 CAROL P. PAVUR, TN
 THERESE M. LAMB, MT
 MARJORIE A. MUZYKA, TX
 TONI D. LONARDO, PA
 RITA KLEIN, ON
 FLORENCE DENOMME
 ELSIE GALIK, NJ
 ROSE LAGARDE, ME
 GERMAINE AULIK, WI
 EUGENE CLEGG, FL
 C. ROBERT SEMMELHACK, IL
 MARGE SEMMELHACK, IL
 SUZANNE SHAFFER, DC
 VIRGINIA GIURLEO, MA
 DON VALENTO, MN

DOLORES ANDERSON, MN
 PATRICIA RUSSO, NY
 ELIZABETH MIDDLETON, MA
 STACIA MORIARTY, MA
 SR. SYLVIA GENESSE, P.M., NH
 MATTHEW RUSSELL, CO
 VIOLET BARKER, NJ
 CATHRYN SUNDALL, MN
 GEORGE PESTER, KS
 VICTORIA FONTANA, CA
 HELEN AND E.M. VARNER, MI
 JEAN CRANE, NC
 FRANK BOZZA, CA
 SR. MARIE B. WALSH, CA
 DENISE MARCH, PA
 CLAIBORNE FITCH, MO
 MARIE BRANDT, AZ
 ANTONIA FLACCO, PA
 BARBARA AND JOSEPH BOPP, IL
 KAREN ALBERTS, IA



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.

- 2026 WALL CALENDAR (LIMITED SUPPLY).....\$10.00
- OUR LADY OF LOURDES MEDAL IN GROTTO.....\$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, November 14 and Friday, November 28
and Friday, December 12 and Friday, December 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

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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