



CATHOLIC SPIRITUALITY  
FOR THE INCARCERATED  
FROM THE ORDER OF MALTA,  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION,  
BOSTON AREA

# The Serving Brother

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2010  
ASH WEDNESDAY

A Message from Prison Chaplain Father George Williams, SJ

## Your opportunity to encounter God at Lourdes

In this edition of *The Serving Brother*, we invite you to join us on a pilgrimage.

Now, when most Americans think of pilgrims we think of Plymouth Rock and Thanksgiving. But pilgrims are any people on a journey of faith and healing. The Pilgrims who came to the Massachusetts colony in the early 1600's were on a long and difficult journey, seeking freedom to worship God as they believed.

A pilgrimage is a journey toward freedom. It is a journey with a goal in mind. To go on a pilgrimage means we must be prepared to sacrifice and struggle.

A pilgrimage is also most often a journey we make with other people. One of the beautiful gifts of our Catholic faith is the importance of *community*. We know we are not just born alone into this world to seek our personal salvation. We are deeply connected to one another through our baptism. We never need to travel alone when we are Catholic. The prayers of our loved ones, both living and dead, surround us. The prayers of all the saints in heaven cheer us on and give us the strength to overcome life's many obstacles.

The annual Lourdes journey is likewise a pilgrimage, a journey of faith, and healing, a journey toward freedom. For over 150 years, men and women have gone to Lourdes in faithful hope of receiving healing from God through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Many miraculous cures have been documented and verified. But everyone who goes to Lourdes experiences some form of healing and freedom, as well as deeper faith. In the New Testament, James writes: "Come near to God and He will come near to you." (James 4:8)

Even if you cannot leave the prison physically, you can still make this pilgrimage in spirit with other Catholics. All you need to do is pray about what healing you or a loved one needs. Whatever it is in your life you need healing from, you can be sure your prayers will be lifted up by hundreds of people. You can pray for yourself and for others. You can write down your prayer request on the form on page 4 and mail it to us. Your request will be carried in person to Lourdes this May and presented to God at the very spot where the Virgin Mary appeared to Saint Bernadette.



SOVEREIGN MILITARY HOSPITALLER  
ORDER OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM OF  
RHODES AND OF MALTA

His Most Eminent Highness  
**Fra' Matthew Festing**  
The Prince & Grand Master  
Magistral Palace, Rome, Italy

**Mr. Joseph H. Miller, KM**  
President, American Association  
New York, NY

His Eminence  
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**Mr. John L. Allen, KM**  
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**Mr. Gerald J. Power, KM**  
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**Mr. Steven G. Caron, KM**  
Prison Ministry Leader & Publisher  
Boston Area

**Fr. George T. Williams, SJ**  
Deputy Chaplain & Editor  
Boston Area

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addressed to:

Order of Malta Newsletter  
43 Essex Street  
Andover, MA 01810



THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

His Holiness **Pope Benedict XVI**  
The Vatican

His Eminence  
**Seán P. Cardinal O'Malley, OFM Cap**  
Archbishop of Boston (Est. 1808)  
Metropolitan of the Province of Boston  
(Est. 1875)

His Excellency **Emilio S. Allué, S.D.B.**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Boston

His Excellency **John A. Dooher**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Boston

His Excellency **Walter J. Eadyvean**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Boston

His Excellency **Robert F. Hennessey**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Boston

His Excellency **Salvatore R. Matano**  
Bishop of Burlington (Est. 1853)

His Excellency **Richard J. Malone**  
Bishop of Portland (Est. 1853)

His Excellency **Timothy A. McDonnell**  
Bishop of Springfield (Est. 1870)

His Excellency **John B. McCormack**  
Bishop of Manchester (Est. 1884)

His Excellency **Francis J. Christian**  
Auxiliary Bishop of Manchester

His Excellency **George W. Coleman**  
Bishop of Fall River (Est. 1904)

His Excellency **Robert J. McManus**  
Bishop of Worcester (Est. 1950)

## A Message from His Eminence Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap

*To our Catholic brothers and sisters in prison,*

In this new edition of *The Serving Brother*, I am happy to share with you my experience of traveling to Lourdes last May with the Order of Malta. For over 150 years, people have come to the grotto where Our Blessed Mother appeared to St. Bernadette. There they have received blessings of healing and peace. May you likewise find healing and peace through the intercession of St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes. Be assured of my own prayers for you.



*From Cardinal Seán's blog*

In May of 2009, Cardinal Seán accompanied the Order of Malta in its Annual International Pilgrimage to the Marian shrine at Lourdes, France.

“When we arrived in Lourdes in the evening we had a candlelight procession, which was very beautiful. The procession, as always, had thousands of people holding candles around the plaza and in front of the basilica. At the end of the procession they asked me to do the blessing and final prayers.

“Saturday morning was the Mass at the Grotto, where 150 years ago, a fourteen-year-old peasant girl received a special grace while praying in this very place. Mary the Mother of Jesus appeared to her. Bernadette Soubirous was told by her priest to ask the woman's name. Mary replied, ‘I am the Immaculate Conception.’

“Four years before this, Pope Pius IX had defined the dogma (teaching) of the Immaculate Conception, meaning Mary had received the singular grace to be conceived without the stain of original sin. This belief about Mary has its origins in the early Church, but it took centuries to be able to develop a philosophical and theological explanation. I am happy to report that Duns Scotus the Franciscan trumped Dominican Thomas Aquinas in coming up with a theological explanation of this ancient dogma. It is like the Red Sox beating the Yankees!

“Some people question why the Church had bothered to define these Marian Doctrines, like the Immaculate Conception and the Assumption of Mary. It would be more ecumenical to downplay these teachings. These teachings however, help us to understand other articles of faith and to understand our own destiny. They speak to us about the Church's teachings on grace and redemption, the Church's teachings on the dignity of the human

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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## Mass readings for the Lenten season

| WEEK                     | MON                               | TUES                         | WEDS   | THUR  | FRI  | SAT                                  | SUN   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Feb 15-21</b>         | Jas 1:1-11<br>Mk 8:11-13          | Jas 1:12-18<br>Mk 8:14-21    | Jl 2:12-18<br>Cor 5:20-6:2<br>Mt 6:1-6,16-18 | Dt 30:15-20<br>Lk 9:22-25                     | Is 58:1-9<br>Mt 9:14-15                                  | Is 58:9-14<br>Lk 5:27-32             | Dt 26:4-10<br>Rom 10:8-13<br>Lk 4:1-13                |
| <b>Feb 22-28</b>         | 1 Pt 5:1-4<br>Mt 16:13-19         | Is 55:10-11<br>Mt 6:7-15     | Jon 3:1-10<br>Lk 11:29-32                    | Est C:12-25<br>Mt 7:7-12                      | Ez 18:21-28<br>Mt 5:20-26                                | Dt 26:16-19<br>Mt 5:43-48            | Gn 15:5-12,<br>17-18<br>Phil 3:17-4:1<br>Lk 9:28-36   |
| <b>Mar 1-7</b>           | Dn 9:4-10<br>Lk 6:36-38           | Is 1:10,16-20<br>Mt 23:1-12  | Jer 18:18-20<br>Mt 20:17-28                  | Jer 17:5-10<br>Lk 16:19-31                    | Gn 37:3-4,<br>12-28<br>Mt 21:33-46                       | Mi 7:14-20<br>Lk 15:1-3,<br>11-32    | Ex 3:1-8, 13-15<br>1 Cor 10:1-12<br>Lk 13:1-9         |
| <b>Mar 8-14</b>          | 2 Kgs 5:1-15<br>Lk 4:24-30        | Dn 3:25,34-43<br>Mt 18:21-35 | Dt 4:1-9<br>Mt 5:17-19                       | Jer 7:23-28<br>Lk 11:14-23                    | Hos 14:2-10<br>Mk 12:28-34                               | Hos 6:1-6<br>Lk 18:9-14              | Jos 5:9-12<br>2 Cor 5:17-21<br>Lk 15:1-3,11-32        |
| <b>Mar 15-21</b>         | Is 65:17-21<br>Jn 4:43-54         | Ez 47:1-9, 12<br>Jn 5:1-16   | Is 49:8-15<br>Jn 5:17-30                     | Ex 32:7-14<br>Jn 5:31-47                      | 2 Sm 7:4-16<br>Rom 4:13-22<br>Lk 2:41-51                 | Jer 11:18-20<br>Jn 7:40-53           | Is 43:16-21<br>Phil 3:8-14<br>Jn 8:1-11               |
| <b>Mar 22-28</b>         | Dn 13:41-62<br>Jn 8:12-20         | Nm 21:4-9<br>Jn 8:21-30      | Dn 3:14-20,<br>91-95<br>Jn 8:31-42           | Is 7:10-14; 8:10<br>Heb 10:4-10<br>Lk 1:26-38 | Jer 20:10-13<br>Jn 10:31-42                              | Ez 37:21-28<br>Jn 11:45-56           | Lk 19:28-40<br>Is 50:4-7<br>Phil 2:6-11<br>Lk 23:1-49 |
| <b>Mar 29-<br/>Apr 4</b> | Is 42:1-7<br>Jn 12:1-11           | Is 49:1-6<br>Jn 13:21-38     | Is 50:4-9<br>Mt 26:14-25                     | Ex 12:1-14<br>1 Cor 11:23-26<br>Jn 13:1-15    | Is 52:13-53:12<br>Heb 4:14-16;<br>5:7-9<br>Jn 18:1-19:42 | Gn 1:1-2:2<br>Gn 22:1-18<br>Ex 14:15 | Acts 10:34-43<br>Col 3:1-4<br>Jn 20:1-9               |
| <b>Apr 5-11</b>          | Acts 2:14,<br>22-33<br>Mt 28:8-15 | Acts 2:36-41<br>Jn 20:11-18  | Acts 3:1-10<br>Lk 24:13-35                   | Acts 3:11-26<br>Lk 24:35-48                   | Acts 4:1-12<br>Jn 21:1-14                                | Acts 4:13-21<br>Mk 16:9-15           | Acts 5:12-16<br>Rv 1:9-19<br>Jn 20:19-31              |

## Prayer intentions in which you may share

*His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI recently offered the following prayer intentions:*

- That children may be respected and loved, and never be the victims of exploitation in its various forms.
- That every believer in Christ may be conscious that unity among all Christians is a condition for more effective proclamation of the Gospel.
- That the peoples of the earth may recognize in the Word Incarnate the light which illuminates every man, and that the nations may open their doors to Christ, the Savior of the world.

*In addition, on behalf of the People of God in the United States of America:*

- That the Knights and Dames of Malta will find success in their quest to serve the imprisoned and their family members in the same spirit as modeled by their Founder, Blessed Gerard, at the Hospital in Jerusalem beginning in the year 1048.
- That fathers and mothers, no matter the conditions of their lives, will receive the wisdom from God to provide the solid direction that their children need to thrive in our often confusing world.
- That in our present need, the Heavenly Father will help us to believe that He is aware of our anxieties and will do what is best for us, giving us the strength to trust Him while confidently putting the present and future in His hands.

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Join in the healing spirit of the Order of Malta's Annual International Pilgrimage to Lourdes this May.

Write your prayer requests of the Lord below, and mail them to The Pilgrim-In-Spirit Program. All requests will be presented to God at the sacred shrine of Lourdes in your stead by the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta.

Dear Lord, in your infinite wisdom and mercy, please hear my prayers:

Mail this page to: The Pilgrim-In-Spirit Program  
Jesuit Prison Ministries  
Box 655  
Weston, MA 02493

*Mark the envelope with the word  
Personal or Private if you wish your  
request to be kept for God's eyes only.*


FROM PAGE 2

human body and the resurrection that flows from a life of grace.

“Most Catholics confuse the doctrine of the Virgin Birth of Christ and the Immaculate Conception of Mary. I like to explain Mary’s Immaculate Conception as her mystical baptism that preserved her from sin, and it was done on a credit card, paid later by Jesus’ death and resurrection. The Scriptures tell us Mary is full of grace. That grace and her faith make her Christ’s first disciple, and the new Eve, the new Mother of a redeemed humanity.

“Mary identifies herself by her Immaculate Conception: that miracle of God’s love that preserved her from sin and prepared her for her vocation as Mother of the Redeemer. To me it is very significant that on this spot where Mary revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, she made a spring of fresh water appear, water with curative powers. I believe there is a message in this for all of us. Sin is the fatal disease, which leads to eternal death. In our baptism we are graced and made to be disciples of Jesus Christ. The curative waters of baptism incorporated us into Christ’s family, the Church. The processions and pilgrimages that Mary asked for are to give us all the opportunity to renew the grace of baptism, to experience the solidarity of our membership in the Church and to express our faith by our love and concern for the sick and the suffering.

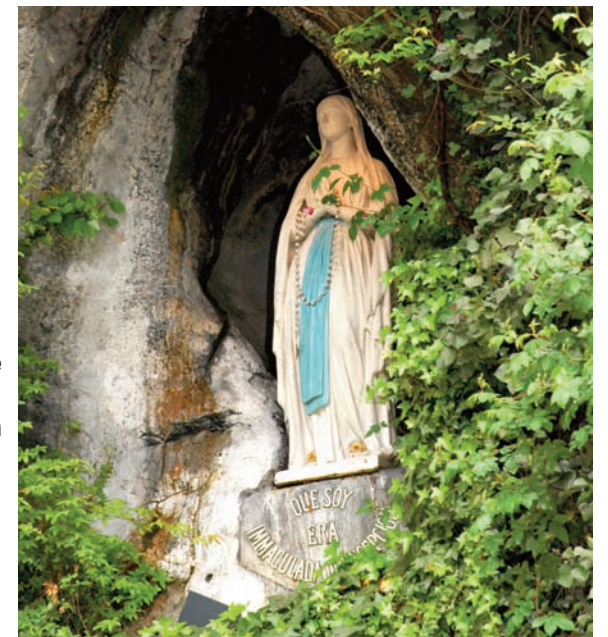
“In this holy place, our God asks us, ‘Who are you?’ Let our answer parallel that of Mary who said, ‘I am the Immaculate Conception.’ Let us reply that our deepest identity is, ‘I am a baptized Catholic.’ The waters of my baptism were, for me, the Jordan, the Red Sea and the water flowing from Christ’s wounded side.

“Mary is the woman full of grace, full of costly grace. The Gospel prophesizes: ‘all generations will call me blessed.’ Indeed, the beatitudes are Jesus’ description of His Mother, poor in spirit, meek, pure of heart, thirsty for holiness and justice. Here in Lourdes, Mary gathers us as her children, brothers and sisters to each other and disciples of the Risen Lord.” 

The Blessed Virgin first appeared to St. Bernadette on February 11, 1858. In all, there were eighteen appearances over the next five months.

The mysterious vision Bernadette saw in the hollow of the rock known as *Massabielle* was that of a young and beautiful lady – “Lovelier than I have ever seen” said the child. But the girl was the only one who saw the vision, though sometimes many stood alongside her. Bernadette often fell into an ecstasy, and on occasion the Virgin spoke to Bernadette, who was the only one to hear her voice.

Once, the Virgin told Bernadette to drink of a fountain in the grotto, which immediately gushed forth – though previously there had been no sign of water there. Since that time, these healing waters have drawn millions to Lourdes for physical and spiritual healing. The Church has officially authenticated 66 miraculous healings at Lourdes.





## A Spiritual Message from Father James Martin, SJ

### A witness to the healing power of Lourdes

The Order of Malta last conducted its annual one-week pilgrimage to Lourdes in May of 2009. As in the past few years, I participated as a guest chaplain for the Order, sharing Masses, Marian processions and meals with a diverse and accomplished group of men and women from around the country.

Lourdes is a marvelous mix of pomp and simplicity. As for the pomp, few places outside Rome can match the pageantry of the Masses celebrated in the vast underground concrete church, the Basilica of St. Pius X. Yet, that worship space is saved from looking like a 1960s-era parking lot only by immense banners from around the world, depicting saints.

As with the rest of the Catholic Church, in Lourdes the personal makes its home alongside the public, and the powerful rub up against the powerless – though who is which is always a good question. That’s because at the very center of things are those whom His Excellency William Curlin, retired bishop of Charlotte, N.C., always calls “our beloved *malades*.” (The word *malade* is the French word for “sick.”) And of course, Lourdes is famous around the world for the many miraculous cures of the sick that have occurred there since the Virgin Mary appeared to a poor peasant – Bernadette Soubirous, now Saint Bernadette – in the year 1858.

On our pilgrimage I met dozens of *malades*, their families, and friends, as well as the Knights and Dames of Malta who were there to help accompany them to the baths, push their carts so that they could get a good spot in the grotto during Mass, fetch them a drink of water, make sure that they got their coffee and croissants in the morning, and – most of all – pray with them.

What was the best part of the trip? That’s easy: being with the generous Knights and Dames, the tireless volunteers and companions, and especially,

the ever-hopeful *malades*. Each of the *malades* comes to Lourdes for a different reason. As a group, they are at different places with their illnesses. But all are hoping for some sort of healing: physical, emotional or spiritual.

With all the good humor and faith of the *malades*, it’s sometimes easy to forget the deep emotions that lay just underneath the surface. Conversations can quickly turn serious over breakfast, lunch or dinner, or while you’re waiting in line for a bath. This particular year, I witnessed anger for the first time, which struck me as bracingly honest and real. Tears come quickly at Lourdes, and flow as fast as the Gave River, which runs silently past the grotto.

*Spiritual* healings come quickly, too – but after I return home people always ask me about the *physical* ones. *Were there any miracles?* Yes, though maybe not as dramatic as the 66 authenticated ones.

For example: One man in our group had suffered injuries during the first Gulf War and, as a guest of the Order of Malta, had come to Lourdes seeking healing. His eyesight, never good, had deteriorated since being injured. He told me while we were waiting in line at the baths, that as soon as he landed in Lourdes his eyesight somehow seemed to *get even worse*. Someone suggested he take off his eyeglasses to let his eyes rest. And a few minutes later, he could see perfectly well!

“Look,” he said, “I can read your name tag from here!” And he did. “I haven’t been able to see that well for 25 years!”

What do you make of that? Well – as one character in the film *The Song of Bernadette* says – *For those without faith, no explanation is possible; for those with faith, no explanation is necessary.*

James Martin, SJ is associate editor of *America*, a *Jesuit Magazine* and the best-selling author of *My Life with the Saints*.

### What is a Serving Brother?

The Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilization. During its early history as a military force, the Knights of Malta required the support of many helpers. One such group of helpers was known as “Serving Brothers.” These men assisted the Knights when called to fight, and also served the Chaplains in tending to the sick. While not members of the Order, they fully shared in the values and lifestyle embraced by the Order.

As such, anyone may spiritually participate as a Serving Brother or Sister by actively participating in the life of the Roman Catholic Church. This can be achieved by activities such as regular attendance at Mass and worship services, keeping up with seasonal bible readings, saying the rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet, studying our Faith and staying true to the admonitions of our Lord Jesus Christ, guided by the teachings of the Church.

#### An introduction to the Sovereign Military Hospitaller Order of Malta (SMOM)

The SMOM is an international religious order recognized by a decree of Pope Pascal II in 1113. Led by the Knights of Justice who are professed Friars, its Grand Master holds the rank of Cardinal. Most of its 13,000 Knights and Dames are not under vows, but are devoted to developing their spirituality, serving the faith and caring for sick, poor and outcast souls. In 1783 Benjamin Franklin presented the *Libertas Americana* medal of the United States of America to the SMOM in thanks for crucial help it provided during the War of Independence.

### Give your brain a workout!

A sheik tells his two sons to race their camels to a distant city to see who will inherit his fortune – BUT, the one whose camel is slower will win. The brothers, after wandering aimlessly for days, ask a wise man for advice. After hearing his advice they jump on the camels and race as fast as they can to the city. *What did he tell them?*

A rooster lays an egg at the very top of a slanted roof. *Which side is the egg going to roll off on?*

I own a pet store. If I put in one canary per cage, I have one bird too many. If I put in two canaries per cage, I have one cage too many. *How many cages and canaries do I have?*

You are the bus driver. At your first stop, you pick up 29 people. On your second stop, 18 of those 29 people get off, and at the same time 10 new passengers

arrive. At your 3rd stop, 3 passengers get off, and 13 new passengers come on. At the 4th stop, all get off. *What color are the bus driver's eyes?*

#### Sudoku Puzzle

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 |   |   | 6 | 7 |   |   |   |   |
|   | 5 | 7 |   |   | 9 |   |   |   |
|   | 2 |   | 5 |   |   | 4 |   |   |
| 2 | 4 |   |   | 3 |   | 5 |   |   |
|   | 8 |   | 7 |   | 2 |   | 4 |   |
|   |   | 5 |   | 4 |   |   | 1 | 3 |
|   |   | 3 |   |   | 7 |   | 6 |   |
|   |   |   | 8 |   |   | 3 | 5 |   |
|   |   |   |   | 2 | 5 |   |   | 1 |

Sudoku Directions – Fill each square with the numbers 1-9. No number can appear twice within the same row, the same column, or within the same frame of nine squares. **ANSWERS ON PAGE 8**

## Community Resources for friends and family

### Counseling Services

New Hampshire Catholic Charities (603) 669-3030 [www.nh-cc.org](http://www.nh-cc.org)

When you need someone to talk to, someone who will listen, someone who can help, New Hampshire Catholic Charities provides individual, marital, family, and couples' counseling. They help people with a variety of personal difficulties including: Depression, Stress, Family Conflicts, Relationship Problems, Anxiety, Substance Abuse, Life Adjustment Issues and Grief & Loss. Counseling services are provided by clinical social workers and mental health counselors licensed by the Board of Mental Health Practice of the State of New Hampshire.

### Emergency Aid Program

Vermont Catholic Charities (802) 658-6111 [www.vermontcatholic.org](http://www.vermontcatholic.org)

The program offers Vermont residents rental assistance to avoid eviction from their residence, utilities assistance to avoid the shut-off of essential services and, when possible, food aid. Former prisoners and the families of current prisoners should ask to speak with Deacon Dennis Moore.

### Crozier House

Catholic Charities Worcester County (508) 860-2209 [www.ccworc.org](http://www.ccworc.org)

When substance abuse is a problem, Crozier House may be your answer. It offers a post-detoxification program for men that deals with both alcohol and drug abuse. Support Groups are also available.

### St. Ambrose Family Inn

Catholic Charities/Boston (617) 288-7675 [www.ccab.org](http://www.ccab.org)

St. Ambrose Family Inn's goal is to provide shelter, support and hope for homeless families in transition. Since opening our doors in 1989, we have been home to almost 2,000 people. Our services include, but are not limited to, meeting families' basic needs by providing food, clothing and shelter. We provide three meals and three snacks a day. We also prepare families for successful and independent living through formal education and in-house trainings, through referrals to local GED-preparation courses, English classes and Job Readiness programs.

## Help us to help you.

Our goal is to make The Serving Brother a publication that truly meets your needs. Please send us your thoughts and ideas at: Order of Malta Newsletter, 43 Essex St., Andover, MA 01810

The wise man tells them to trade camels.  
Neither: roosters don't lay eggs.  
Four canaries and three cages.  
Read the first sentence again.

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| 4 | 5 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 3 | 8 |
| 1 | 2 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 9 |
| 2 | 4 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 6 |
| 6 | 7 | 5 | 9 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| 5 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 6 | 2 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 4 |
| 8 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 9 | 1 |