

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
February 9, 1949

What Happened At Lourdes.

Lourdes and its Grotto is the story of the Blessed Virgin Mary and fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, a poor little shepherdess, now a canonized saint.

The Mother of God appeared eighteen different times to her little friend. The first apparition took place on February 11, 1858. The fuel supply in the Soubirous home had run low and Bernadette was sent to gather some twigs and branches. Below the village of Lourdes is a small stream called the Gave. Along its banks, about noon, Bernadette with two girl companions began the search for wood.

Bernadette, deciding to wade across the stream, leaned down to remove her shoes and stockings. As she did so, a rustling as of a breeze came up with great suddenness and startled her. She looked up. And standing in a small niche in a large cavern-like rock she beheld the Mother of God.

The Virgin was nodding her head slightly and holding out her open arms. Very much frightened, Bernadette took out her rosary and prayed fervently, and Our Lady fingered her beads along with Bernadette. When the rosary was completed, the Blessed Virgin smiled and disappeared.

Other apparitions followed over a period of five months. During these visits Our Blessed Mother would pray with Bernadette and tell her heavenly secrets. Once Our Lady told her confidante to tell the priests of the village to build a chapel and to encourage the faithful to come to the Grotto for prayer. That request has been fulfilled. A magnificent church has been built and the pilgrims number thousands every year.

Miracles began to take place at the Grotto. The first was that of a stone cutter who was cured of blindness. The second was that of a child who was cured of consumption when given up for dead.

Many of these miracles were performed after the sick and infirm had bathed in a stream of water that sprang up miraculously on the occasion of one apparition. Many cures are still performed today through contact with that stream which continues to flow, and blessings of every description are being granted by Our Blessed Mother because of devotion to her as Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception.

The Grotto at Notre Dame was built that the spirit of Lourdes might be brought to the campus. Since its completion, fifty-three years ago, it has been an integral part of Notre Dame life. The zealous student will pray to Mary at her campus shrine every day with the same fervor and confidence as if he were at Lourdes itself. He will be rewarded for his devotion by countless blessings.

Prayers

(deceased) Clifford Buckley, '41, with his wife and child, killed in auto accident, brother of John Buckley (morr.); father of Jim Donohue, '43; Mrs. Katherine Forkus, friend of Dick Fybar (Cav); Charles Connolly; Mrs. Mame Underhill, sister of Terence Cosgrove (Univ. trustee); Otto Werrbach, friend of Ed Clark (Dil); mother of Jim Donnolly (Ly); father of William Fox, '20; Mrs. Geo. Bender, aunt of Geo. Frazier (Wal); friend of Bob Beikirch (Ly); father of John Guendling, ex '17. 8 Special Intentions.

DON'T MISS FATHER PATRICK PEYTON CSC.

FOUNDER OF FAMOUS *Family Theater* RADIO PROGRAM  
WED. 8:15, DRILL HALL