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An Evening At Lourdes

If ever you go to Lourdes, try to make your arrival toward evening. Why? Because when you are yet rounding the last bend in the road, a faint murmur first reaches your ear. Soon you will recognize it as the "Aves" drifting up from the valley. As you reach the crest of the hill, you will look down upon a sea of lights.

"Ave, Ave, Ave Maria..." the mixture of a world of dialects and languages melts into the unity of a Latin salute... clear and thrilling notes of voices lyrical with love. The great white basilica looms in the background, pointing its luminous finger of a tower toward the black heavens. And you will stand for a long time, and watch the lines of light curving along the avenue from St. Michael's bridge to the great Esplanade. You will forget all about the rain (if there be any), or the chill of the mountain air, or the ache of muscles weary from traveling to this holy village.

Soon, now, the singing will draw to a close. The procession of lights moves into the "Place du Rosaire." Then a priestly voice will pierce the stillness of the night: "Credo in unum Deum..." and the assembled faithful of many tribes and tongues announce their common bond in one common tongue. With the sound of Latin, every man feels at home. Were he to close his eyes, he might easily fancy himself back in his own parish church in some remote corner of the world, far removed from the Pyrennees. And it comes home to you, as never before, the startling realization that the Church is one, and holy, and Catholic, no less than apostolic.

It also comes home to you, as never before, that Mary is the Mother of us all. And realizing this truth, as you stand within the portals of her household there at Lourdes, you do not feel so far from home after all.

Today is the feast of Our Lady at Lourdes -- the Lady of the Grotto -- whose lovely shrine we have reproduced so faithfully here on our campus. Drop over tonight, and pay the same Lady a visit. At Lourdes she is especially the patroness of the sick. Say a prayer at her grotto for all those who are ill and have been recommended to our prayers. Who knows -- at some future time we may be doing the same thing for you!

Tonight The Novena

Last Friday evening, we filled the church. It was the first Friday evening of the new semester, and a great beginning for all those advocates of Our Lady praying to her for themselves and their families. Come back tonight, and bring someone with you. The Novena begins at 6:45. You will be on your way at 7:15. It's a small sacrifice for the huge dividends it pays.

A Quote On Lincoln

Bruce Barton, in a Lincoln Birthday address, made this statement: "We are met here to honor the memory of an American who was ill-fed, ill-housed, ill-clothed --- and didn't know it."

How Much Of You Is Going To School ?

When his foreman walked off the job, a Texas contractor offered the post to one of his workmen.

"Nope," said the carpenter, "I just want to hire out from the neck down."

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PRAYERS -- Deceased: friend of Pat Mulgrew of Cavanaugh; uncle of Tom Murphy of Farley. Ill: Tom Labce of Lyons; relative of John Francis of St. Ed's.  
3 Special Intentions.