

Tonight at 6:45:
Novena in honor of
The Sorrowful Mother.

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
February 7, 1958

Sunday: 7, 8, 9 o'clock
Masses are intended especially for Freshmen.

Holy See Honors The Grotto

The Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, on campus, takes on added significance in this the Centenary Year of the Apparition of the Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette. According to Father Philip Schaerf, C.S.C., Pastor of Sacred Heart parish, and Director of the Confraternity of Lourdes, each time you visit the Grotto you may gain a Partial Indulgence; and on certain specified days throughout the Centenary Year you may gain a Plenary Indulgence. The Bulletin will enumerate these specified days for you, as they occur.

It is interesting to note that generations of Notre Dame men had great devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes long before we had a replica of the Grotto where she appeared. The Confraternity was established in 1874. But even prior to this time, water from the miraculous stream at Lourdes was distributed by Notre Dame to all parts of the country. And as early as the 1860's, the Ave Maria carried regular notices of numerous cures and favors, both physical and spiritual, through a regular column.

Devotion increased through the years, so that in 1895 Father Thomas Carroll of Oil City, Pennsylvania, wished to give visible testimony to this phenomenon. And so the Grotto was erected, and patterned as closely as possible after the one where Our Lady appeared to Bernadette. In those days the campus wasn't very large; hence, the spot near the church, near St. Mary's Lake. This is the spot where the sun lingers longest during a summer evening, and where the snow remains whitest in winter.

And if you are alert when you enter Sacred Heart Church, you will notice that a replica of the Apparition at Lourdes appears on the wall above the altar on the Gospel side of church. Father Sorin commissioned an Italian artist, Gregori, to do this painting in 1877. At the same time, Father Sorin dedicated the altar below to Our Lady of Lourdes. All this was long before the Grotto was actually erected on the grounds.

And it will be at this altar that the relic of St. Bernadette will repose during the Centenary Year. Last summer, when Father Schaerf went to Lourdes, he also stopped off at Nevers, the motherhouse of the Sisters whose convent Bernadette joined. The Mother General of the Order presented him with a First Class Relic of the Saint -- to be kept at Notre Dame because of our early and persistent devotion on campus to Our Lady of Lourdes. St. Bernadette was canonized 25 years ago.

This is the relic of St. Bernadette that will be solemnly reposed on the Lourdes altar next Tuesday afternoon, on the centennial anniversary of her first glimpse of the Blessed Mother. We'll have the Mass of Our Lady of Lourdes at 4:30, followed by the procession, with Bishop Fursley carrying the relic to the altar. Don't miss it!

Join Her Confraternity

The purpose of the Lourdes Confraternity is to honor Our Lady, and to perpetuate the memory of the papal pronouncement defining her Immaculate Conception; and also to thank her for her apparitions at Lourdes, and for the favors granted, and to pray for an increase of devotion to her throughout the world. That shouldn't be hard for any Notre Dame man. Procedure for enrollment will appear in a later Bulletin. The Indulgences, and other spiritual benefits available to members, should elicit our interest and heighten our zeal during this Centenary Year.

Miss First Friday Communion this morning ? Go to Mass at 5:10 this afternoon.