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Our Lady of Lourdes Tomorrow.

Seventy-four years ago tomorrow Our Lady appeared at Lourdes, in France, to a girl of fourteen, Bernadette Soubirous. With two little companions she was gathering fire wood along the banks of the Gave, when she heard a rustling sound in the branches of trees in front of a natural grotto in the face of the rocky cliff of Massabielle. She looked up, but saw nothing. When the sound was repeated, she peered more intently, and this time she made out in a niche behind and above the branches, "a girl in white, no taller than I," she said, "who greeted me with a slight inclination of the head." The figure, it seemed to the child, invited her to pray, so she took her rosary out of her pocket and began to tell the beads. The figure also took her rosary and passed the beads through her fingers. At the end of Bernadette's five decades, the figure disappeared.

This was the first of eighteen apparitions of Our Blessed Mother to Bernadette. Many of them were witnessed by hundreds of people, some of them by thousands - but none of the on-lookers saw the vision. However, on the occasion of the vision of February 26, the crowd saw Bernadette, at Our Lady's command, scratch in the mud and sand and drink of the muddy water she found there; before night they saw that "saucerful of dirty water" running to the Gave; within a week they found that the spring that had come up at Our Lady's bidding was pouring 27,000 gallons of water into the Gave each day. Both at Lourdes and abroad all over the world, that water has cured thousands of people when medical aid was helpless.

During the apparition of March 25, Bernadette asked the Lady, "Will you kindly tell me who you are?" At first there was a smile but no reply; later the apparition, extending her hands to earth and lifting her eyes to heaven, answered: "I am the Immaculate Conception. I want a chapel here." The chapel was built - a magnificent church - and today this little town in the Pyrenees is visited by greater throngs than any other Christian shrine.

"The greatest of the Lourdes miracles is the resignation of the sick who flock there." This has been the observation of many a visitor at this shrine. Dr. Sherry, in his recent lecture, told you of the cures - real miracles - and the tests to which medical science puts them. The other side of the picture is the absence of sorrow on the part of the poor victims who go there seeking relief from every human ailment - and who go back home with their weary bones still aching, but with joy in their hearts. "If you question the sick," said one observer, "you will find that many who are among the greatest sufferers have come to beg graces not for themselves but for others, often to pray and to offer their sufferings through Mary's hands for the conversion of someone dear to them."

At our own Grotto of Lourdes tomorrow, offer your prayers to our Blessed Lady for the ones who depend on your prayers - for conversion as well as for the sick. And ask her to teach you the lesson she taught Bernadette: "Penitence! Penitence! Penitence!" It is our salvation: "Unless you do penance you shall all likewise perish." Ask Our Lady to help you make a good Lent.

Help The Poor During Lent.

We had to turn down a hungry man the other day; the poor box was empty. We have expended some four hundred dollars this winter on relief of the poor - and most of it came not from students but from outside sources. Do what you can during Lent; there's a poor box at the pamphlet rack. And don't forget Bengal; get a mite box at 141 Sorin.

PRAYERS: Please continue your prayers for Mrs. Rookne; it will be some time before she is completely recovered from her operation. Jim Kearns asks a continuance of prayers for his father, whose condition is unsatisfactory. Four special intentions.