


Saint Bernadette Soubirous 1844 - 1879 and Our Lady of Lourdes

- Bernadette was only 14 years old on February 11, 1858 when Our Lady of Lourdes appeared to her in a grotto of Massabielle near Lourdes, France.
 - Our Lady of Lourdes appeared 18 times over a six month period to St. Bernadette.
 - During her first apparition Our Lady prayed the rosary with Bernadette but only the Lord's Prayer and Glory Be.
 - Our Lady asked Bernadette to wash her face in the fountain but there was none there, so Bernadette dug a hole in the ground and with muddy water washed her face while people ridiculed her, from there sprang the famous fountain of water that has healing attributes.
 - Our Lady told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception."
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- Thousands of people have been cured from many illnesses and had conversions of the heart at Lourdes. There are many approved miracles recorded.
 - People who visit Lourdes today actually get their whole bodies dunked in the miraculous waters.
 - The apparitions were declared authentic in 1862 and Lourdes became one of the world's major pilgrimage site.
 - Bernadette became a Sister of Notre Dame in Nevers, France.
 - Bernadette had a life of suffering and penance with illness. Our Lady told her she would find happiness in the next life and not in this world.
 - The message of Our Lady of Lourdes is about the healing Mercy of God.
 - Lourdes is also about the need for prayer and penance. St. Bernadette testified to the call of Our Lady of Lourdes by living the rest of her life in humble prayer and suffering as a nun.
 - Bernadette died at the age of 35 on April 16, 1879. Her body is incorrupt in the chapel of Nevers. You are able to see her on several web sites by searching her name on the Internet. One such site is: <http://www.ichrusa.com/saintsalive/bernad.htm>