

## The Eighteen

# Apparitions at Lourdes

From the 11<sup>th</sup> of February to the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 1858, in the grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes (France), Our Lady appeared to a 14-year old girl, Bernadette Soubirous.

Below are given extracts from 10 of those apparitions:

- On the **11<sup>th</sup> of February 1858** when Our Lady appeared for the first time, Bernadette spoke about her as *the Beautiful Lady*.
- **18<sup>th</sup> of February** – during the third apparition the Beautiful Lady said to Bernadette: *Will you be so kind as to come here every day for fifteen days?* Our Lady gave her word that happiness would be waiting in Heaven.
- **21<sup>st</sup> of February** – during the sixth apparition the Beautiful Lady told Bernadette *to pray for sinners*.
- **24<sup>th</sup> of February** – Bernadette turned facing the crowd of more than four hundred people and repeated the words of Our Lady: *penance, penance, penance!*
- **25<sup>th</sup> of February** – during this apparition, the Beautiful Lady told Bernadette *to drink from the fountain and bathe in it*. Bernadette began to scratch the loose gravel off the ground which encircled her. She noticed that the ground beneath her was moist, and soon afterwards a little pool formed. She cupped her hands together and drank, and then washed her face.
- **27<sup>th</sup> of February** – the Beautiful Lady told Bernadette *to kiss the ground on behalf of sinners*. She immediately did so, and the crowd followed her example.
- **28<sup>th</sup> of February** – the Lady asked Bernadette to tell the clergy to build a chapel on the site of the Grotto.
- **3<sup>th</sup> of March** – during this apparition, the Lady repeated that she wanted a chapel built by the clergy and she wanted people to come to this chapel in processional form.
- **25<sup>th</sup> of March** – during the sixteenth apparition, which occurred on the Feast of the Annunciation, the Beautiful Lady revealed her identity to Bernadette: *Que soy era Immaculado Councepsiou (I am the Immaculate Conception)*.
- **16<sup>th</sup> of July** – on the feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, the Beautiful Lady appeared to Bernadette for the last time.

## Our Lady is a living being

- She has the appearance of a young girl of sixteen or seventeen. (...) She is so beautiful that one would be willing to die to see her again.

*St. Bernadette about Our Lady*

- The Most Holy Virgin Mary is not a fairy tale or a legend, but a living being who loves each one of us.

Yet, she is not sufficiently known, and we in return do not love her enough.

Therefore it is necessary to announce her loving work everywhere.

*St. Maximilian*



**MILITIA IMMACULATÆ**

[www.militia-immaculatae.info/en](http://www.militia-immaculatae.info/en)

[info@militia-immaculatae.asia](mailto:info@militia-immaculatae.asia)

[www.mi-library.org](http://www.mi-library.org)

[www.kolbepublications.com](http://www.kolbepublications.com)

## Our Lady of Lourdes



## Sinners and Penance

- There is no doubt that penance and prayer for sinners was the essence of Our Lady's message to Bernadette, and through her to our time.



**St. Maximilian** has written:

- In Lourdes the Immaculata urged everyone to pray for sinners. And the M.I. fulfils this invitation of the Immaculata by having thousands of mouths and hearts repeat daily: *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee, and for all those who do not have recourse to thee, especially for the Freemasons and for those who are commended to thy care.* This invocation came out the mouth of the Immaculata and applies to every soul.

- In Lourdes, the Immaculate Virgin exhorted all people to do penance. In addition, during these apparitions, as if to show us a source of help, she recited the Rosary with Bernadette. Since then, in Lourdes the Immaculata began to fulfil the office of Mediatrix for us: she invites the sick, gathers the lame and the weak to heal them, and helps us understand how much we depend on her in our natural life.

She lovingly attracts those who are sick in the soul, that is, unbelievers and sinners with an obstinate heart, and instils supernatural life in their hearts, to convince them of the power that she has to give us supernatural life.

## The Immaculate Conception

- It is natural to look for some centre of unity amid the diversity of facts and words associated with Lourdes. There can be no doubt that this centre was provided by Our Lady herself when on the 25<sup>th</sup> of March 1858 she at last spoke the word that all had been waiting for, praying and hoping for. She spoke her name. She said: *Que soy era Immaculada Councepsiou! (I am the Immaculate Conception.)*



- St. Maximilian has written:

**The Immaculate Conception** – this privilege must be particularly dear to her if, at Lourdes, this is how she herself wanted to be called: *I am the Immaculate Conception.*

**These words must indicate accurately and in the most essential manner who she is.**

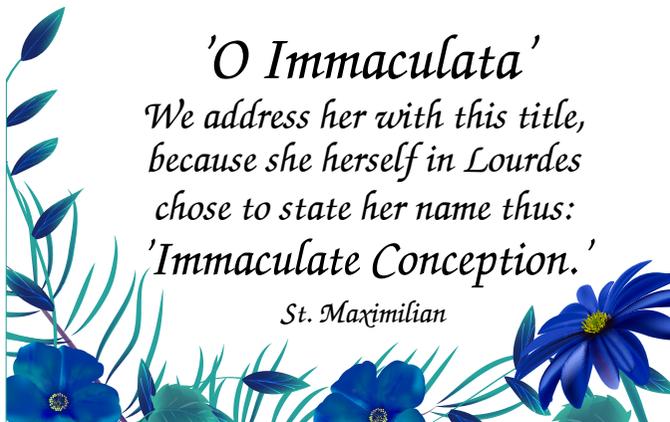
- Bernadette herself, who deplored the fact that too many people skim over the surface of things, remarked: *I would like to see emphasis placed on the apparition in which the Blessed Virgin declared her identity.* Everything in the story of Lourdes is related to and made meaningful by the dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

*'O Immaculata'*

*We address her with this title, because she herself in Lourdes chose to state her name thus:*

*'Immaculate Conception.'*

*St. Maximilian*



## The Blessed Sacrament

- The centre of all devotion at Lourdes is the Blessed Eucharist: Holy Mass, Holy Communion, Blessed Sacrament procession, blessing of the sick with the Sacred Host, Real Presence on the altar. Pope St. Pius X wrote in 1911: *The unique glory of the sanctuary of Lourdes lies in the fact that pilgrims from all parts are drawn there by Mary to the adoration of Jesus Christ in the august Sacrament; so that this sanctuary seems to surpass in glory all others in the Catholic world both as the centre of Marian devotion and as the throne of the Eucharistic mystery.*

- Nowhere is the relationship of Mary to the Blessed Eucharist so clearly grasped as at Lourdes. When the priest says Holy Mass there, especially if he has the privilege of saying Mass at the grotto, he knows that Mary is there, as she was on Calvary, offering her Son.

