



Our Lady of Lourdes and Bernadette.

THE BASILICA AT LOURDES.



This Church has been built above the
Grotto by the express wish of the
"Beautiful Lady."

by

Fr. Bernard Vaughan, S.F.

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Our Lady of Lourdes
and Bernadette.

IN 31 SCENES.

Illustrating, with life-like fidelity, the scenes
in her life from childhood to her death.

Length of Exhibition about 50 minutes.

Code-word, "Lourdes."

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LIST OF SCENES.

1. Bernadette tending her sheep.
2. Bernadette leaves home to collect firewood.
3. Bernadette gathering driftwood.
- 4, 5 and 6. The First Apparition.
- 7 and 8. Getting Holy Water at the Church.
- 9 and 10. Sprinkling with Holy Water.
11. The Request to write.
12. The sceptical Doctor.
13. Bernadette is arrested.
14. Before a State Official.
- 15, 16 and 17. Drawn towards the Grotto, but no Apparition granted.
- 18 and 19. The message to the Priests.
20. The Miracle of the Spring.
- 21 and 22. The Miracle of the Purbblind Man.
23. Proof of the Cure.
24. "Go, drink at the Fountain."
25. The Miracle of the Dying Child.
26. "I am the Immaculate Conception."
27. The Miracle of the Taper.
28. The Police strip the Grotto.
- 29 and 30. Bernadette as Nun and Hospital Nurse.
31. Death of Bernadette.

The Story of Bernadette Soubirous.

In a day when many souls are being drawn away from God through the senses, it becomes the sacred duty of every upright man to do his very best to bring them back to Him through the senses. For this reason I take no little delight in encouraging cinematographs which treat, truthfully and reverently, life-stories of the sainted heroes and heroines of Christianity.

It is in the hope and in the belief that the "animated pictures" dealing with the simple yet sublime life of Bernadette Soubirous will inspire souls with a sense of the sacred character of their mission in life, no matter how humble it may be, that has induced me to string together some of the salient facts of a life which, when brought home to us in a series of living pictures, cannot fail to leave upon our souls an impression making for spiritual health.

Let me then utter a foreword about the little Pyrenese peasant girl. Let me invite you to realize her simple environment, to breathe her untainted atmosphere; that

so we may enter more fully into the setting of the story, which besides being a vision, ought also to be a mission to us.

In the south of France, at the base of the Pyrenees, stands a town reared amid rocks, past which rushes the Gave, fertilizing the plains below on its way further south. Need I tell you this is the far famed town of Lourdes?

Here was born in the year 1844, Bernadette Soubirous, whose name will be for ever associated with the town, which she has in part created, and to which she has drawn the attention of all the world.

Bernadette was a delicate child of working parents to whose scant earnings she contributed by shepherding a flock of sheep.

She was a good, quiet, innocent child, a martyr to asthma.

Nothing very eventful happened in her childhood, till one Thursday, February 11th, 1858, when her mother sent her to gather driftwood beside the stream under the wall of the Massabielle Rocks. It was whilst she was doing her mother's bidding that she noticed the great oval niche in the rock light up with extraordinary brilliancy, whilst, standing within it, she was struck by the appearance of a lady of surpassing beauty. Her dress was white, the girdle about her waist was sky blue, a white veil fell from her head to the ground, and on her feet

were two golden roses. The lady's hands were joined, as though in prayer, upon her breast, and a great rosary, with beads like drops of milk, hung from her arm, and terminated in a cross of burnished gold.

Between February 11th and July 16th we have records of eighteen apparitions of the "Beautiful Lady," who, when asked her name answered "I am the Immaculate Conception." She told her little client to keep visiting her at the Grotto, "And on my part," she added, "I promise to make you happy; not indeed in this world, but in the world to come."

On the 25th of February a miraculous little spring trickled from the rock. It grew in volume till its yield became, later on, more than 1,000 gallons an hour.

It is not my purpose here to tell the story of all the eighteen apparitions to this simple little peasant girl Bernadette, nor is it my intention to put before you the deeds of wonder that have been wrought through the intercession of the "Beautiful Lady" of Lourdes. For the moment, I want to trace the story of the privileged, pious peasant girl to its close.

On the 3rd of June, the Feast of Corpus Christi, Bernadette made her First Communion, and though she grew in the practice of simple piety she never made much headway at school. She was shy, and shunned

publicity, wishing to remain unnoticed and unknown.

In the year 1860 the Sisters of Charity gave her an asylum in their convent. There she lived a simple and industrious life; a very matter-of-fact girl, dull rather than clever. In fact when the Bishop of Nevers suggested to the child the possibility of her becoming a sister in the convent, her reply was, "I am no good. I know nothing and am fit for nothing." In July, 1866, she did join the good sisters and was admitted into their novitiate at Nevers. In that hospice-convent she lived until her death. Her profession was made on October 30th, 1867, when she took the name of Sister Mary Bernard.

The Sister's work lay chiefly in the infirmary helping the sick, but though she gave herself to the task allotted her with all her heart, she used to say: "Every day I go in spirit to the dear grotto and make my pilgrimage there." It was the thought of the "Beautiful Lady" that sustained and encouraged Sister Bernard in her life of cross carrying.

Her short religious life was passed in a good deal of acute suffering. The first part of Our Lady's message to her, "I promise to make you happy, not indeed in this world, but in the world to come," seems to have been carried out very literally.

Asthma was a life-long cross, and weakness too came upon her, weighing her down, and then a tumour formed on one knee, while caries were beginning to wear and waste her joints and bones. Whatever miracles were wrought for Our Lady's other clients at Lourdes, Bernadette was no subject of them. The child never seems to have asked to have her own sufferings released by miraculous intervention. She always bore in mind the warning uttered at the grotto, "Pray for sinners, penance, penance, penance." She did penance, drinking the chalice to the end. She had a Saint's instinct and longing for suffering.

On Wednesday in Easter Week, April 16th, 1879, Sister Mary Bernard, after receiving the holy rites of the Church, surrounded by her dear community of sisters, faintly whispering the prayer "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners," breathed her last.

Her life of wonders and of sorrows was at an end.

May we not venture to believe that the "Beautiful Lady," who promised that her little client should be made happy in the next world, came down from Heaven to fold her little one in loving embrace, and so to bear her away to that Home beyond the stars, where Faith passes into sight, where Hope is more than realized, and where

Love reigns supreme, dowering life with Eternal Happiness. Thus was fulfilled the "Beautiful Lady's" gracious promise to make her peasant child happy with the enthralling vision of God in Heaven.

In this short introduction I cannot pretend to recount what the "Beautiful Lady" has done for pilgrims to her shrine at Lourdes since Bernadette went home, but this much let me say, that, between 1892 and 1907 no fewer than 3492 doctors have visited the shrine, and investigated cures. More than 346 doctors of eminence have declared that very many cures have taken place "which science cannot explain by the sole forces of Nature." These cases were mainly cures of organic diseases. Of the last 450 cases registered at Lourdes, only 15 are set down as nervous and functional. The medical bureau at Lourdes enumerates 150 different kinds of diseases as having been cured there. Not to mention the millions of pilgrims who since Bernadette's day have visited the "Beautiful Lady's" Grotto, I cannot omit to remind my readers that during the jubilee year 1908, nearly two million persons prayed at the shrine, seventy thousand of them being there on the jubilee day of the first apparition, February 11th.

To those unfortunate people who gratuitously assert "Miracles do not

happen" let me bring home John Stuart Mill's declaration, that granted the existence of God, we must recognize the possibility of miracles.

One thing is certain, the miraculous lies altogether outside the range of science. Science can no more disprove a miraculous fact than a miracle can prove a scientific one.

Before accepting, as before rejecting a miracle, first of all investigate the evidence for it. A miracle is an objective fact, and like other historical facts, subject to the ordinary rules of evidence. There is no difficulty in discovering opportunities at Lourdes for investigating cases said to be due to miraculous intervention. From 1858 till 1907 inclusively, there have been 3,803 cures reported, with a yearly average of 145 during the last fifteen years. In 1904 there were 198; in 1905, 141; in 1906, 115; and in 1907, 101 cures duly reported and registered. To my thinking more wonderful than the miraculous cures wrought in the broken bodies of pilgrims to the "Beautiful Lady's" grotto at Lourdes, is the miraculous courage and strength that is invariably given to the souls of the visitants to her holy shrine.

In a day now long fled S. Bernard, the honey-mouthed, used to say that no one ever had resource to God's Mother, implored

her help, or sought her mediation without obtaining relief. What Mary's most devout client then said may with equal truth be repeated by present day pilgrims to Lourdes.

Without exception all who go to the grotto, in right dispositions, return from it, if not cured of their bodily ailments, anyhow strengthened and encouraged to bear their trials calmly, peacefully, gladly bowing to the ruling of Heaven.

"Jesus Christ is yesterday, to-day and the same for ever." He is still going about doing good; He is still wonderful in His mercy, wonderful in His works, wonderful in His Saints, but wonderful most of all in the "Beautiful Lady" of Lourdes, His blessed Virgin Mother.

BERNARD VAUGHAN, S.J.,

114 MOUNT STREET, W.

Feast of St. Joseph.

SCENE 1.

BERNADETTE TENDING HER
SHEEP.



Bernadette, who was about fourteen years of age, was a delicate child, afflicted with asthma from early childhood. She spent most of her time tending sheep.

SCENE 2.

BERNADETTE LEAVES HOME TO
COLLECT FIREWOOD.



On the 11th of February, 1858, Bernadette was sent to gather firewood, as her mother had no fuel with which to prepare the scanty midday meal for the family.

SCENE 3.

BERNADETTE GATHERING
DRIFTWOOD.



In company with her sister Marie and another girl, she went to the banks of the river which flows near the base of the Grotto.

SCENES 4, 5 & 6.

THE FIRST APPARITION.



In quest of driftwood, Bernadette wandered a short distance from her companions towards the Grotto. Suddenly she heard a noise which resembled a strong wind, and looked in the direction of the Grotto whence the sound came.

The spectacle which met her gaze struck awe into the very depths of her soul. She sank on her knees looking intently at the niche, whence the sound came, which was illuminated by a bright light. In the midst of the light appeared a Lady of heavenly beauty.

SCENES 7 & 8.

GETTING HOLY WATER AT THE
CHURCH.



The children having taken some Holy Water from the Church, and going to the Grotto, told Bernadette she must throw the water on the Lady, if she appeared.

SCENES 9 & 10.

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SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER.



Scarcely had they commenced to tell their beads, when Bernadette's face became aglow with light and happiness. She beheld the Lady once more. The child then took the Holy Water and threw some towards the niche, saying: "If you come from God, approach."

SCENE 11.

THE REQUEST TO WRITE.



Bernadette, approaching the Apparition with pen, ink and paper, held them up and said: "O Lady, if you have anything to communicate to me, would you have the kindness to inform me in writing who you are and what you want?"

SCENE 12.

THE SCEPTICAL DOCTOR.



Dr. Dozous, a sceptical onlooker, was at Bernadette's side as she gazed on the Lady, He took the child's arm and felt her pulse. "This," thought he, "is neither catalepsy, nor a case of hysteria duped by illusions. This is a wonder quite beyond the sphere of medicine."

SCENE 13.

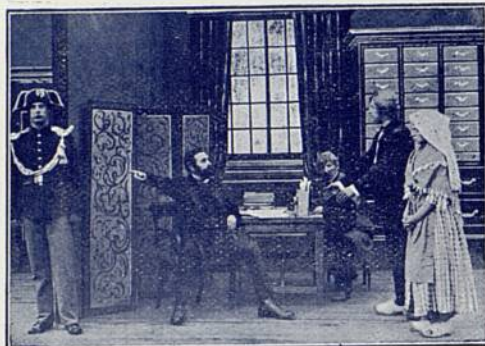
BERNADETTE IS ARRESTED.



On the morning of February the 21st, Bernadette, on her return from the Grotto, was arrested.

SCENE 14.

BEFORE A STATE OFFICIAL.



And she was ushered into the presence
of a high State Official the Procureur
Imperial.

SCENES 15, 16 & 17.

BERNADETTE IS DRAWN TOWARDS
THE GROTTO.



As the Angelus bell rang from the tower
of the parish church, Bernadette was
compelled by an irresistible power to betake
herself to the Grotto. But her countenance
did not assume any sign of ecstasy, and
she announced that the Lady had not
appeared.

SCENES 18 & 19.

THE MESSAGE TO THE PRIESTS.



"And now, my daughter," said the Lady,
"go and tell the priests that a church must
be built here, and that the people should
come here in procession."

SCENE 20.

THE MIRACLE OF THE SPRING.



And the Beautiful Lady said: "Now go
and drink from the fountain, wash yourself
therein, and eat of the herb which is
growing there."

Bernadette, as if obeying a sign, stooped
and dug with her little hands a hole in the
sand. The cavity began to fill with water.

SCENES 21 & 22.

THE MIRACLE OF THE PURBLIND
MAN.



A quarryman named Bouriette had his right eye so seriously affected by an explosion that he could only see objects in a misty way.

Hearing of the miraculous spring, he sent his daughter for some of the water, saying, "If it is the Blessed Virgin who appears at the Grotto, she can cure me."

SCENE 23.

THE PROOF OF THE CURE.



Suddenly he cried out in joy that he was cured.

Dr. Dozous shortly after meeting Bouriette, to test his eyesight, made an entry in his note-book, which Bouriette read quite easily.

SCENE 24.

"GO, DRINK AT THE FOUNTAIN."



The Apparition, as on the preceding days, commanded the girl to go and drink and wash herself at the fountain, and to eat of the herb already mentioned.

SCENE 25.

THE MIRACLE OF THE DYING
CHILD.



One day a woman came with an infant in her arms. She plunged her child Justin into the icy water of the spring, calling upon the Mother of God to cure him.

Little Justin slept well during the following night, and awoke next morning, cheery and strong.

SCENE 26.

"I AM THE IMMACULATE
CONCEPTION."



And Bernadette said: "O Lady, I entreat
you to tell me who you are."

The Lady smiled upon Bernadette, and
raising her eyes to Heaven, said: "I am
the Immaculate Conception."

SCENE 27.

THE MIRACLE OF THE TAPER



Bernadette was holding a wax candle, that
was lighted. In her ecstasy she unwittingly
placed her hand in the flame, but the
bystanders were astonished to notice that
she did not feel and was unharmed by the
burning flame.

SCENE 28.

THE POLICE STRIP THE GROTTA.



M. Jacomet, the Police Commissary, proceeded towards the Grotto, the Sergents de Ville following with a cart. On his arrival at the Grotto he entered it, followed by his men.

He then extinguished the candles, placed there by the faithful, and picked up the chaplets, jewelry, and the various votive offerings that filled the Grotto and placed them in the cart.

SCENES 29 & 30.

BERNADETTE AS NUN AND
HOSPITAL NURSE.

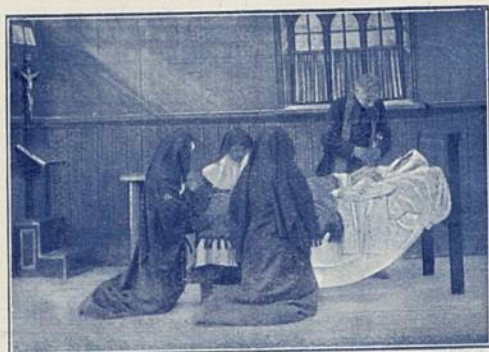


In July, 1866, Bernadette was admitted into the Novitiate of the Sisters of Nevers.

For a short period she ministered to the sick in the infirmary; but was obliged to relinquish this function of consoling the infirm, which was especially dear to her.

SCENE 31.

THE DEATH OF BERNADETTE.



The end was approaching. The Sisters seeing she was dying, said: "Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist us in our last agony."

Bernadette bowed her head and gave up her soul to God.

