

# Biblical Literature



## God Evidence

### Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes



In 1858, a very poor, 14 year-old French girl caught sight of a “Lady” who appeared to her in the cleft of a rock grotto. Bernadette was collecting sticks for firewood on February 11th when this “Lady” suddenly appeared to her. She described her to two companions as very beautiful and confessed that she was so awe struck at the sight of her that she could not raise

her hand to make the sign of the cross, until the Lady first did so and prayed with her a little. The lady spoke to her in her native patois.

Of course, she was ridiculed and interrogated for her outrageous story, and although she did not claim to have seen “Mary,” others rightly assumed that she was speaking about the Blessed Mother. The apparition made a simple request of her, i.e. that she would return to the grotto each day for fifteen days and ask the pastor that a church be built there for the people. Although at first treating Bernadette quite strictly, the pastor asked Bernadette to seek a sign from her lady.

The pastor’s request for a sign was agreed to and a week later Bernadette responding to the lady’s request began to dig in the ground at the base of the grotto and cupped up a bit of muddy water to “..drink of the spring,” which neither Bernadette nor the astonished on-lookers could see hidden beneath the ground. From that day to the present an estimated 27,000 gallons of completely pure water flow

from the spot Bernadette scratched with her hands. She was no longer a laughing stock. Here are a few points to keep in mind:

- Bernadette 's actions resulted in the miraculous production of a spring which pours out 27,000 gallons of biologically pure water daily.
- Though unable to pass her first communion test she revealed the name of the lady to be the "Immaculate Conception." Pope Pius IX had only four years prior declared this to be an official teaching of the Church. It is not the kind of name an uneducated girl would devise, since it is a difficult doctrine to understand.
- Innumerable cures have resulted from people drinking and bathing in the spring water. The first of which occurred two days after the spring was provided by our Lady. A man was healed of his blindness in one eye and a child in the village cured of complete paralysis of the lower limbs.
- Many cures have followed and been investigated by the church and declared "miraculous" only after an exhaustive investigation by a professional committee established in Lourdes by the Church. The cures range from Cancer to Tuberculosis and Paralysis. Some are quite astounding.
- Although sick people by the hundreds bathe daily in the water, routine tests show that the water remains uncontaminated and free of biological life.
- Finally, as a testimony of Bernadette's sanctity and the truth of what she proclaims, her body today remains incorrupt and was first discovered to be completely intact and having no signs of corruption after 30 years of burial.