

OUR LADY OF LOURDES *and* MARIE BERNADETTE SOUBIROUS (1844-1879)

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Bernadette Sees a Lady in the Grotto

BERNADETTE was a good-natured little girl, small for her age. She had big dark eyes and a rather stubborn round face. She was very devout.

On Thursday, February 11, 1858, when Bernadette was fourteen, she dressed warmly, for it was a bitterly cold day, and went collecting wood with her small sister and playmate. The two smaller girls ran on ahead, leaving Bernadette behind trying to make up her mind whether or not to wade across the Gave River.

While she was taking off her shoes and stockings, she heard a sound of wind like a storm. She looked all around, but everything was still. There was no movement in the trees. She heard the wind again and looked toward the cave. Then she noticed that a wild rose which was growing below the cave was shaking. The cave was filled with golden light.



Bernadette went to collect wood with two companions. 5



Crowds of people followed Bernadette to the grotto. 17