



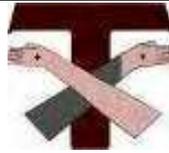
The Newsletter of

644 South 9th Street
Lake Wales, FL 33853

EL ENCUESTRO/THE ENCOUNTER



February 2018



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Message from minister:

"Abwoon demashmaya" are the opening words of the Lord's Prayer in Aramaic. Our Father He is. He created us, knows us and loves us perfectly through every single second of our lives. Our very existence, joys and difficulties are in His hands. Not one second He is unaware of us. But He wants us to pray teasingly. We should pray for ourselves, our loved ones and those we meet throughout our lives. Even if our lives don't make sense, we have to have faith and trust in Him. We can also offer up whatever suffering or inconvenience we go through for the benefit of our souls and those around us. Laudatto sii mi signore. Jose-

Dear Friends,

It is our Diocese Year of The Eucharist. Please consider committing an hour of your time each week in adoration of Our Lord.

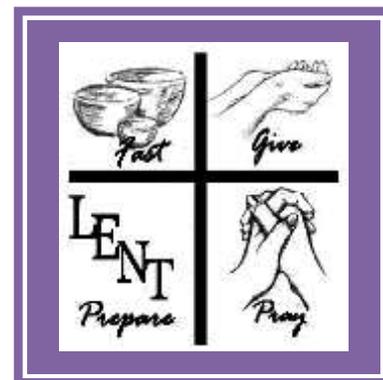
Please see the bulletin for times the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in the adoration chapel.

The Lord is waiting and looking forward to your visit.

See the link below for information about adoration.

<https://shar.es/1NJSau>

Karen Rooney, Vice Minister



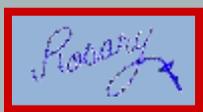
Council Meeting: Fri., February 02, 2018

6:30pm — Holy Spirit Catholic Church school building.

Fraternity Meeting: Sat., February 10, 2018

9:30am — Fraternity Meeting and Formation

Remember: Your Fair Share \$55.00



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Deacon John
Rosemary Shaffner
Karen Rooney's Husband
Sr. Madeleine Harper



BIRTHDAY

Sr. Madeleine Harper 02/21

PROFESSION ANNIVERSARY

Jose Ayala 02/16/2008

Alice Powell 02/19/2000

FRANCISCAN SAINTS FOR FEBRUARY



February-Month of the Holy Family

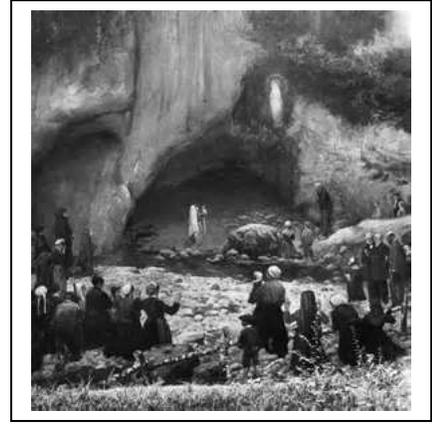
2. Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary
4. St. Joseph de Leonisse, Priest, Capuchin
5. St. Jeanne de Valois, Virgin, a "Poor Clare"
6. Bl. Pius IX, Pope, Franciscan 3rd Order
7. St. Egide-Marie de St. Joseph, lay brother
8. Bl. Antonie de Stronccone, lay brother
9. Bl. Claire de Rimini, Virgin, a "Poor Clare"
10. Bl. Alojzije Stepinac, Bishop, Franciscan 3rd Order
11. Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes
12. Bl. Andre Ferrari, Bishop, Franciscan 3rd Order
13. St. Eustochie de Messine, a "Poor Clare"
14. Bl. Philipa Mauri, Virgin, a "Poor Clare"
15. Translation of the relics of St. Anthony
16. Bl. Veridiane, Virgin, Franciscan 3rd Order Secular
17. Bl. Luc Belludi, Priest
18. St. Bernadette Soubirous, Virgin, corderbearer
19. St. Conrad de Plaisance, Confessor
20. Bl. Pierre de Treja, Priest
21. St. Margaret of Cortona, penitent
22. Feast of the Chair of St. Peter
23. Bl. Isabelle of France, a "Poor Clare" sister
24. Bl. Innocent XI, Pope, Franciscan 3rd Order Secular
25. Bl. Sebastien d'Apparicio, lay brother
26. Bl. Antoinette de Florence
27. Bl. Louise Albertoni, Virgin
28. Bl. Jeremie de Valachie, lay brother, Capuchin

Franciscan Saint of The Month

The Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes, France

The First Apparition - Thursday, February 11, 1858:

After dinner on the Thursday before Ash Wednesday, Bernadette's mother told her Children that there was no more wood in the house. Bernadette and her sister, Toinette, and a neighbor friend, Jeanne Abadie, went to the river Gave to gather wood. They had to cross a canal of cold water. Fearing that she would have an asthma attack, Bernadette stayed on the bank, and the other two girls crossed the stream and picked up wood under the grotto until they disappeared along the cave.



Bernadette heard a great noise like the sound of a storm, but nothing was moving. She was frightened and stood straight up, losing all power of speech and thought. She turned her head towards the Grotto of Massabielle and saw in the opening of the rock a rosebush, one only, moving as if it were very windy. Almost at the same time, there came out of the interior of the grotto a golden-colored cloud, and soon afterwards, a Lady, young and beautiful --exceedingly beautiful -- the likes of whom she had never seen, came and placed herself at the entrance of the opening above the rosebush. She looked at Bernadette and immediately smiled and signaled her to advance, in a way that a mother motions her child to come near. Bernadette took out her rosary and knelt before the Lady, who also had a rosary on her right arm. When Bernadette tried to begin saying the rosary by making the sign of the cross, her arm was paralyzed. It was only after the Lady had made the sign of the cross herself that Bernadette was able to do the same. As Bernadette prayed the rosary, the Lady passed the beads of her rosary between her fingers, but remained silent. She did recite the Gloria's with her, however. When the recitation of the rosary was finished, the Lady returned to the interior of the rock and the golden cloud disappeared with her.

Bernadette told her sister of the extraordinary things that had happened to her at the grotto, asking her to keep it a secret. Throughout the day the image of the Lady remained in her mind. In the evening at the family prayer Bernadette was troubled and began to cry. When her mother asked what was the matter, her sister told her everything. Bernadette's mother told her that these were illusions, and forbid her to return to Massabielle.

Bernadette could not sleep that night. The face of the Lady, so good and so gracious, returned incessantly to her memory. It was useless to recall what her mother had said because she did not believe that she had been deceived. Her conviction of this was unshakable. She went on to describe the Beautiful Lady in detail:

"She has the appearance of a young girl of sixteen or seventeen. She is dressed in a white robe, girdled at the waist with a blue ribbon which flows down all around it. A yoke closes it in graceful pleats at the base of the neck. The sleeves are long and tight-fitting. She wears upon her head a veil which is also white. This veil gives just a glimpse of her hair and then falls down at the back below her waist. Her feet are bare but covered by the last folds of her robe except at the point where a yellow rose shines upon each of them. She holds on her right arm a rosary of white beads with a chain of gold shining like the two roses on her feet." On Sunday, Bernadette's mother allowed her to return to the grotto.

The Second Apparition - Sunday, February 14, 1858:

The three little girls started out, armed with a vial of holy water. If what their elders said was true, they might need this to ward off malign influences. Instead of throwing the water at the Lady, Bernadette poured the water quietly on the ground. Then she turned and told her companion that, judging by the Beautiful Lady's smile, She was pleased by this action. Before Jeanne Abadie, who was just arriving, could explain that she had thrown a stone for fun, the others had scattered in every direction, screaming for help as they ran. When Toinette reached the cachot (home) and poured out her story, her mother seized a switch and headed for the site. By now the whole town was talking. Fortunately for the unhappy little Bernadette, one local woman of considerable prominence interpreted the apparitions in a different light from most of the townspeople. She got Louise's permission to let her daughter Bernadette accompany her and a friend to the grotto.

The Third Apparition - Thursday, February 18, 1858:

All three went first to early Mass. Then they set out for the grotto. Madame Millet carried a blessed candle; Antoinette Peyret a pen, paper and ink to record anything that might be said. The Beautiful Lady said to Bernadette: "There is no need for me to write down what I have to say to you. Will you be so kind as to come here every day for fifteen days?" No explicit reason was given for this request, but a definite pledge accompanied it: though she did not promise that Bernadette would be happy in the world, the Beautiful Lady gave her word that happiness would be waiting in heaven.

The Fourth Apparition - Friday, February 19, 1858:

Bernadette's parents and her aunt accompanied her to the Grotto along with some neighbors. Shortly after Bernadette began to pray the Rosary, everyone present noticed that her face was transfigured and illuminated.

The Fifth Apparition - Saturday, February 20, 1858:

On Her fifth visit, the Beautiful Lady taught Bernadette a prayer, which she recited daily for the rest of her life. She never revealed the prayer to anyone, but she did say that she was told to always bring a blessed candle with her. Candles now burn perpetually at the Shrine.

The Sixth Apparition - Sunday, February 21, 1858:

The Beautiful Lady told Bernadette on this occasion to "pray for sinners", which she never failed to do. Several hundred people were present on that day, including Dr. Dozous, a prominent physician in Lourdes. He told the crowd that he could find nothing abnormal about Bernadette's physical condition, even when her mental state was trancelike: "Her pulse was regular, her respiration easy, and nothing indicated nervous excitement."

A meeting was called by the citizens of the town, and sharp differences of opinion were expressed regarding the apparitions. They expressed concern for the dangers that could accompany gatherings of such large crowds. They persuaded the Procurer Imperial, M. Dutour, to officially forbid Bernadette to return to the Grotto. Bernadette responded that she could not give her word to refrain from going to the Grotto because she had promised the Beautiful Lady she would do so. Dutour dismissed her, and discussed this matter with two local officials: M. Jacomet, the Chief of Police; and M. Estrade, who was to become Bernadette's and Dutour's friend and who was also to perform an invaluable service by listening in at future conversations and scrupulously recording them word for word.

Estrade recorded a conversation between the Chief of Police and Bernadette. During that meeting, M. Jacomet deliberately tried to confuse Bernadette to change her account of the apparitions. When that attempt failed, the Chief of Police released Bernadette to the custody of her father with an admonition that he take her home and guarantee that there would be no further disturbances. But the interior call which was urging her on was stronger than any earthly admonition.

On Monday, February 22, 1858, Bernadette returned to the Grotto after school. Two policemen saw her and followed her, and so did the usual crowd. The policemen stood at respectful attention as she knelt down in her accustomed place. But as she arose, they sprang forward and asked her if she still insisted that she had seen a Beautiful Lady. "No, this time I saw nothing at all," she answered. She was allowed to go home, but she was taunted and threatened. People said mockingly that the Beautiful Lady was afraid of the police and had found some safer place to go.

The Seventh Apparition - Tuesday, February 23, 1858:

Approximately two hundred people were present at this apparition. When Bernadette's appearance was once more transformed, the men present removed their hats and fell to their knees. Bernadette appeared to be gravely serious and listening, and then joyful, and she would occasionally bow low. At the conclusion of the vision, which lasted an hour, Bernadette moved on her knees toward the rose bush and kissed the ground. When asked what the Lady had said, Bernadette replied that the Lady had entrusted her with three secrets, which she never revealed.

The Eighth Apparition - Wednesday, February 24, 1858:

During the eighth apparition, Bernadette turned and faced the crowd of more than four hundred people, and three times she repeated, "penitence, penitence, penitence!"

The Ninth Apparition - Thursday, February 25, 1858:

During this apparition, the Beautiful Lady told Bernadette to, "drink from the fountain and bathe in it." Bernadette was puzzled; there had never been a fountain at Massabielle, or any kind of a natural spring. She began to scratch the loose gravel off the ground which encircled her. As she did so, she noticed that the ground beneath her was moist, and that a little pool was forming and bubbles were rising from it. She cupped her hands together and drank, and then washed her face. The next day, the pool was overflowing and water was dripping down over the rock. The following day, the trickle had become a real stream. Of course, it was immediately said -- and has been said by skeptics ever since -- that the spring was there all the time. The fact remains that Bernadette did find the spring as the result of a direct command.

The Tenth Apparition - Saturday, February 27, 1858:

On this occasion, the Beautiful Lady told Bernadette to "kiss the ground on behalf of sinners." She immediately did so, and the crowd followed her example.

The Eleventh Apparition - Sunday, February 28, 1858:

There were approximately two thousand spectators at the Grotto that morning. The Lady asked Bernadette to tell the clergy to build a chapel on the site of the Grotto.

The Twelfth Apparition - Monday, March 1, 1858:

During this apparition, the Lady commented to Bernadette that she was not using her own Rosary, which was an accurate statement. Bernadette had been asked by Pauline Sans to use Pauline's Rosary at the Grotto that day.

The Thirteenth Apparition - Tuesday, March 2, 1858:

Bernadette arrived at the Grotto early in the morning, prayed the Rosary in the presence of the Lady, who remained silent except for the Gloria's.

The Fourteenth Apparition - Wednesday, March 3, 1858:

During this apparition, the Lady repeated that She wanted a chapel built by the clergy and, additionally, that She wanted people to come to this chapel in processional form. Bernadette was terribly afraid of the parish priest, Abbe Peyramale. It had been difficult for her to go to him the first time about building a chapel, but it took a great deal of courage for her to present herself to him a second time about processions. He dismissed her curtly, ordering her to tell the Beautiful Lady that the Cure of Lourdes was not in the habit of dealing with mysterious strangers; that if She wanted a chapel -- if She had a right to one -- She must reveal Her identity.

The Fifteenth Apparition - Thursday, March 4, 1858:

By now, most everyone in France knew that March 4th was the last of the fifteen days that Bernadette had promised the Lady that she would be present at the Grotto. Twenty thousand people were present that day, including an entire military garrison in full-dress uniform. As Bernadette approached the apparition site, a path was cleared for her, and the soldiers who accompanied her did so with respect. After the apparition, Bernadette told the crowd that she would continue coming to the Grotto because the Beautiful Lady had said nothing in the form of a farewell. The crowd was disappointed and disillusioned. They had seen Bernadette transfigured with a strange radiance, but they had hoped to also share her vision, to hear the same voice that she did, and they expected that, at the very least, the rosebush would burst into a sudden miraculous bloom.

The Sixteenth Apparition - Thursday, March 25, 1858:

During the sixteenth apparition, which occurred on the Feast of the Annunciation, the Beautiful Lady revealed her identity to Bernadette: "Que soy era Immaculado Conception", I am the Immaculate Conception. Bernadette was not sure what this name meant, but people who needed no explanation flocked to Lourdes in greater numbers than ever before. Baron Massy, a local official, ordered Bernadette to be examined by three more physicians. They found her to be physically and mentally sound.

The Seventeenth Apparition - Wednesday, April 7, 1858:

Bernadette had never failed to bring a lighted candle to the Grotto since the first time she had been instructed to do so by the Beautiful Lady. During this apparition, she unconsciously placed one of her hands over the flame of the candle. People witnessed the flame burning through her fingers. Bernadette did not even hear the cries of horror which arose from the crowd. She continued to pray for at least fifteen minutes while the flame burned through her hand. She emerged quietly from prayer unscathed. Then Dr. Dozous took another candle and, without warning, touched the flame to her hand. Bernadette immediately cried out in pain. Shortly after this apparition, the Prefect took matters into his own hands and ordered the Grotto closed, and the rustic altar was dismantled.