

February 11, 2023



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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UNFORGOTTEN DEEDS OF HOPE

Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes

By Julie Mussché

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

JOHN 2:1-5

Reflection

Back in the late 1960's, television programming was certainly much more limited than it is today. In addition to regular programming such as the Ed Sullivan Show, The Dick Van Dyke Show, Bonanza or the Beverly Hillbillies,

certain channels, like today, featured movies. During the Christmas or Easter seasons, it was not unusual for stations to feature classic films like *Going My Way*, *The Bells of St. Mary's*, or *The Song of Bernadette*. The last film stands out having won the first Golden Globe and multiple Oscars. It was also one of the first films to be broadcast on television independent of station ownership. I imagine that millions of people have viewed the film and, in fact, you can still stream it today on multiple platforms.

What is it about this film that still draws people even after eighty years? The film itself and the performances were exceptional. Yet the story, although not entirely accurate as portrayed in the film, seems to capture people's hearts. The story of a poor and humble young teenage girl living in the rural Pyrenees during the mid-1800's and experiencing Marian apparitions is incredible and moving. Her persistence in the face of ridicule and disbelief is equally amazing. The resulting pilgrimage site in Lourdes, and the miraculous healing associated with the spring waters, draws millions of pilgrims each year.

Within this context, we witness the promise of hope and healing through Mary's intercession. We are not forgotten but held tightly by Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Mother, Help of the Afflicted. Blessings on the Feast Day, Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes. Clearly the scripture passage leading into this reflection offers only a glimpse of the tenacity of Mary's intercession.



A Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

Ever Immaculate Virgin Mother of Mercy, Health of the sick, refuge of sinners, Comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings; look with mercy on me. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure for their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal.

I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

Inscribed in Our Lady of Lourdes Chapel, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

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