

**LOURDES CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

Lourdes February 11, 1958

covered by all competition

Positive developed: 61 meters : 203 ft

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Pope Pius XII speaking by radio from the Vatican yesterday led 60,000 pilgrims in prayer to mark the 100th anniversary of the day on which the Roman Catholic Church says the Virgin Mary appeared to 14-year-old Bernadette Soubirous.

The 60,000 - some on cots, some in wheelchairs and the rest kneeling - had come from all over the world to join Pierre Cardinal GERLIER, Primate of the Gauls, and some 20 bishops and archbishops in day-long services on the Esplanade of the Rosary, near the spring to whose waters the Church attributes miraculous healing properties.

After hearing the Pope's Apostolic blessing in a special message read by Most Rev. Pierre Arle Theas, Bishop of Lourdes, the throng prayed for the 81-year-old Pontiff and received communion from 300 priests. This is believed to be one of the largest commemorations of the blessed sacrament ever held.

It began a year of celebration of the 18 appearances of the vision the unexplained appearance of a spring in the theretofore barren, rocky grotto, and a series of otherwise unexplained cures of the hopelessly ill, which led to the canonization of the little girl as Sainte Bernadette.

From eight to ten million pilgrims are expected to crowd into the Pyrrénées foothil town of 15,000 for commemorative services. Church sources said this would be the greatest manifestation of Roman Catholic devotion ever demonstrated outside Rome itself.

Picture shows: the throng of pilgrims during the Pontifical Mass on the Esplanade of the Rosary, said by Pierre Arle Theas Archbishop of Lourdes Pierre Cardinal GERLIER, Primate of the Gauls during his sermon shots of the throng before the Holy Grotto endless procession, and blessing of the ill.

**CENTENARY OF LOURDES APPARITIONS DEMONSTRATIONS**

Positive developed : 50 meters - 170 ft  
 competition unknown

To-morrow, Thursday, a century ago, a young girl called Bernadette SOUBIROUS walking to the river-banks the GAVE to pick up driftwood suddenly heard a noise which she described as "if a thunderstorm was coming". Afraid, she glimpsed behind the bushes closing the entrance of the MASSABIELLE cave, a young maiden about her height smiling to her graciously, and who spoke to her, requesting that she comes back and pray.

In spite of multiple opposition from her family and her village folks she came back and the Lady spoke to her several times. Thus began the miracles of Lourdes, and Bernadette SOUBIROUS after convincing her family and several young friends started the most important pilgrimage place in the world.

Starting to-morrow important ceremonies will begin to commemorate the first apparitions to Bernadette Soubiros, in the world famous Holy grotto and several millions of pilgrins from all over the world are expected.

On the occasion of the Immaculate Conception anniversary, a giant Basilica housing 20,000 pilgrins is being built in Lourdes, underneath the large square facing the Holy Grotto.

Problems of transportations, housing and accommodation for such a large number of pilgrins have been studied and resolved. Besides large railroad facilities, an airport has been built at Ossun which will enable airplanes from many countries to land directly on the pilgrimage site. Road transportations have also been considered and a parking lot for private cars and buses is planned for thousands of vehicles, covering 10 acres.

This picture shows :

- Village of BARDIER where Bernadette Soubiros was born and lived with her parents
- reconstruction shots of Bernadette with her shagp in the countryside, and of her near the hut where she was born.
- LOURDES castle, and old streets of the town,
- LE CACHEOT, where Bernadette lived with her parents, the chimney in the only room where the Soubiros family lived, there were the father and mother, and four children 2 boys and 2 girls of which Bernadette was the eldest, her bed, her portrait.
- The river "le GAVE" and three little girls figuring Bernadette, her sister and her friend, walking to the water edge as when Bernadette first heard the voice of the Lady.
- The girls picking up driftwood, and pan. on the empty cave entry, the same as the one Bernadette saw the Lady appearing for the first time, and thereafter.
- LOURDES, the Holy grotto with a crowd of pilgrins,
- Lourdes Basilica, and construction of the underground new giant church.
- an airplane bringing pilgrins for the Centenary celebration,
- cathedrales, trains and crowds
- construction work of the new underground Basilica before a statue representing Bernadette
- The Holy Virgin in the Grotto, and candles burning before the Virgin's image.
- NEVERS, the convent in which Bernadette entered and died in 1883. She entered the

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- /••• convent on July 7, 1866 and stayed as a nun until her death twelve years later. Buried in the small chapel in the middle of the convent's gardens her body was three times unearthed, and each time it was established that the body was still intact. The body was placed in a glass coffin, and the face and hands were recovered by a cigarette-paper thin layer of wax.
- Shots of Nevers Convent of Saint Gildard, and Bernadette's body lying in her glass coffin.
- a shadow of a nun against the wall of the convent
- Bernadette's prayer book
- 3 shots of the glass coffin ending on a close-up of the Saint's face.