A *Family* Tested by Hardship

Did you know?

Bernadette was not born into poverty. Her father, François Soubirous, was a miller, and during Bernadette's early childhood the family enjoyed a modest degree of security. But a series of hardships changed everything.

Eventually, the family became so poor that they were forced to live in the Cachot, a former jail cell considered unfit even for prisoners. The small, dark room became home to Bernadette, her parents, and her siblings.

Yet poverty did not extinguish the love within the Soubirous family or Bernadette's growing faith. It was during this difficult period of her life that the extraordinary events at the Grotto began.

Bernadette's story speaks powerfully to anyone who has experienced financial hardship, illness, uncertainty, or loss. God's presence is not reserved for moments when life is comfortable. Sometimes grace enters precisely where we feel poorest and most vulnerable.

Take a Moment to Reflect:

Can we recognize God's presence even during the difficult seasons of our lives?

Prayer:

St. Bernadette, help us to trust that God remains close to us in times of hardship and uncertainty.

