The *First Apparition*



Did you know?

On February 11, 1858, Bernadette went with her sister and a friend to gather firewood near the Grotto of Massabielle. As the other girls crossed the stream, Bernadette remained behind because of her poor health.

Then something extraordinary happened. Bernadette heard what seemed like a rush of wind. Looking toward the Grotto, she saw a beautiful young woman surrounded by light. Bernadette instinctively reached for her rosary. This was the first of **eighteen apparitions** that would take place between February 11 and July 16, 1858.

Bernadette initially referred to the mysterious figure simply as "the Lady." She did not immediately claim to know who she was. She reported what she had experienced with remarkable simplicity, even when questioned repeatedly by family members, clergy, and civil authorities. The story of Lourdes began quietly—with a young girl, a rosary, and an encounter that would eventually touch the entire world.

Take a Moment to Reflect:

Do we leave enough quiet in our lives to recognize when God may be trying to get our attention?

Prayer:

Our Lady of Lourdes, lead us into deeper prayer and closer friendship with your Son.