

Our Lady Of Lourdes

"THE APPEARANCES of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Lourdes in 1858 is one of the most dramatic and engrossing stories of the modern era. The miraculous, indisputable cures which have taken place at the grotto, the canonization of Bernadette (the girl who witnessed the apparitions), the great devotion which sprang up to Our Lady of Lourdes all over the world have made this one of the most inspiring and extraordinary events in Church history"—so wrote the editors of Michel de Saint-Pierre's *Bernadette and Saint-Pierre's Bernadette and Lourdes*.

Precisely on account of the drama inherent in Our Lady's apparitions at Lourdes and the inspiring song that Bernadette sang there, the Elmira high school of the Religious Sisters of Mercy has been dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Such a dedication is timely, for every boy and girl who will be graduated from Notre Dame High School will face assignments similar to Bernadette's. Hers was a twofold assignment: first, she was to conquer Lourdes and win the village for the Lady. Secondly, she was to conquer herself and gain the crown of sanctity. Her life is the story of unswerving fidelity to this twofold assignment.

The twentieth-century boy and girl must conquer a world much like that of Bernadette's. They, too, will stand face to face with skeptics, scoffers, intellectuals, not at all unlike those that crowded Lourdes' Cafe Progress. At the same time they must turn their sabres inward, against themselves and like Bernadette, conquer their tendencies to sin in quest of the same crown of sanctity.

BERNADETTE WAS victorious in her conquests because of the beautiful Lady who transformed a city dump into a miraculous shrine in her august presence. The very thought of her made Bernadette's face shine with angelic light, the mere mention of her name filled Bernadette with an energy foreign to a body as weak as hers; the love of her instilled into Bernadette a zeal and steadfastness no man could brook or break.

It is the prayer and hope of the Religious Sisters of Mercy that what Our Lady did for Bernadette will be done again for every boy and girl who passes through the portals of Notre Dame High School.

By naming the school after Our Lady her all powerful protection is thereby invoked, by titling it Our Lady of Lourdes a story is kept alive—a story dramatic in its every detail and bound to inspire youth as few stories ever will.

'Queen City'

Elmira, site of the new Notre Dame High School, proudly bears the title "Queen City of the Southern Tier."

Elmira's near 20,000 Catholics form approximately one third of the total population.

Eight parishes and six parochial schools provide spiritual care for Catholics in this southern tier capital.

Dean of the Chemung Deanery, which includes Elmira and area parishes, is the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William J. Brien, M.A., Ph.D., pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Elmira.



Portrait of Mother McAuley, Founder of Mercy Sisters, is gift to Notre Dame.



Nobody is too busy these days to broadcast their sincere congratulations to the Sisters of Mercy upon the dedication of their new Notre Dame High School for boys and girls. We are very gratified that our trade skill has played an important part in this structural and educational achievement.

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Traffic is halted as the officer on the busy corner thinks of that beautiful new Notre Dame High School as the Sisters pass by. Congratulations, to be sure! We're proud of our installations, by the way.

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