



Thousands of the world's sick, crippled, and dying visit Our Lady's Shrine at Lourdes each year, with faith and hope that they might be cured. Their coming is a striking example of love and trust in the Blessed Mother for more than 2-million pilgrims that visit the Shrine each year. (NC Photos)

## 'I Am The Immaculate Conception' World Turns To Lourdes

(Continued from Page 1)  
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Suddenly she snatched her dying child from his crib, rolled him in her apron and ran to the grotto, where the pool had been dug a few days before. Into the icy water she plunged her son for 15 long minutes, during which she prayed. The time was checked by Dr. Douzou who had come to watch Bernadette "at her visions" of which he was skeptical.

Church doctrine declares that Mary, mother of Christ, is the only human being who was conceived "immaculate" — free from the "original sin" inherited by other souls from Adam and Eve who disobeyed God's command in the Garden of Eden.

It is considered significant that the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception was proclaimed by Pope Pius IX in 1854, only four years before the apparitions.

It is also interesting to note that the Lady never said the spring water would be instrumental in healing. Its curative potentialities were disclosed by the simple, firm faith of a neighbor of Bernadette's, Madame Bouhours.

Her 18-month-old son, Louis-Justin, became paralyzed in both legs. He could not even sit up. He was subject to violent convulsions that increased in number as time went on. Dr. Douzou, the attending physician, wrote in his notes on the case, "Diagnosis hesitates between meningitis and poliomyelitis."

He finally warned the child's parents, "It is only a matter of hours."

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"The pool is not for me," she maintained.

It was not until 1862 that the Church officially proclaimed the Lady Bernadette saw and spoke with to be "Mary Immaculate, Mother of God."

The processions the Lady asked for occur daily. Some times as many as 60,000 walk in the evening torchlight procession. Each holding a shaded candle they make a moving stream of light on the big ramps that move out from the two old sanctuaries.

On an average, 2,500 persons a day are bathed in the spring water now piped into 16 individual tubs.

NOBODY KNOWS how many mental and spiritual healings have taken place at the shrine but scientifically "checked" for physical cures are numerous. However, canonical requirements for a cure attributed directly to the intervention of God are so rigid that the Church has proclaimed only about 51 Lourdes cures to be truly "miraculous."

From the 9th century onward, Lourdes was important and famous for its great fortress. In 1360 it passed by the Treaty of Bretigny from the French to the English. But England lost it to France in 1406.

In this atomic age Lourdes has become important again. Strictly spiritual reasons have made it one of the most famous places in the world, visited annually by millions from the East and from the West.

Dr. Douzou became one of the first medical witnesses at Lourdes. Louis-Justin, aged 77, was an honored guest at Bernadette's canonization ceremonies in Rome in 1933.

St. Bernadette herself died as a member of the Sisters of Charity at Nevers in 1878. Her age was 35. Although she was gravely ill for some time before her death, she never went to the spring.

## POAU Aide Quits, Raps Group's Bias

(Continued from Page 1)  
nunciation of the Supreme Court," and "the appointment of an American Ambassador or a personal representative to the Vatican."

TWO OF THE POAU questions are based on statements of "half-truth," Mr. Lichtenstein charged.

The POAU "balance sheet" itself, he wrote, violates the U.S. Constitution's provision that no man must submit to a test on religion to gain public office, and implies that only Protestants do not need "scrutiny" of their beliefs. Furthermore, the POAU "Questions" bring up issues unrelated to the religious affiliation of a presidential candidate and contain self-contradictions, said Mr. Lichtenstein.

POAU's "balance sheet," he revealed, was issued in response to "a clamor" from various POAU chapters and members.

"In other words," he wrote, "the statement of policy was issued in response to popular clamor, without regard to the merits of the question . . ."

THIS EXPLAINS the self-contradictions — the protestations that the organization is not political, partisan or sectarian, that it opposes the formation of any Catholic or anti-Catholic political party in the United States and deplores the Ku Klux Klan and American history — but that it would nevertheless insist on presenting special questions to Catholic candidates.

Mr. Lichtenstein pointed out that POAU's "questions" for Catholic candidates about "boycott of public schools" referred to "Canon 1374 of Catholic Church law."

The first POAU question said the resigned official, "is irrelevant to any campaign for the office of President. Canon 1374 requires Catholic children to be sent to parochial schools unless special Church permission is given for them to attend other schools."

"But it says nothing about public tax support of church schools and it would be quite possible for a Catholic who accepts Canon 1374 to serve con-

scientiously as president of the United States," he wrote.

QUESTION TWO asked by POAU referred to the 1948 comment of the U.S. bishops on the opinion of the Supreme Court in the famed McCollum case.

The high court held that public school classrooms could not be used during school hours as sites for the teaching of religion, even based on voluntary attendance by pupils and parents' consent. The court held also that the government could not "aid all religions."

POAU charged the U.S. Catholic Bishops with "denouncing" the Supreme Court.

Mr. Lichtenstein pointed out that POAU's "question" failed to note the large number of Protestant leaders who have criticized the McCollum opinion of the court.

These included evangelist Billy Graham, the Rev. Eugene Carson Blake, past president, Protestant National Council of Churches; Dean James A. Pike of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, and others, he wrote.

Mr. Lichtenstein said the third "question" about a representative of the United States at the State of Vatican City is an issue that "exists independently of the religious affiliation of the President."

"That is certainly as much a question for the Protestant Presidents who have maintained such relation (and for Democratic leader Harry S. Truman, a Baptist, who still advocates resumption of relations) as it is for Catholic candidates," he wrote.

POAU'S CHARGES that the Catholic Church is the greatest threat to continuation of "the principle of Church-State Separation" and "American History" — and certainly European — does not show any clear-cut championship of church-state separation by the Protestant churches.

"On the contrary," he pointed out, "the statesupported church establishments in colonial times were all Protestant, and vestiges of those establishments" have survived to this day, particularly in the public schools of many localities.



**Maryknoll Nun Doctor Featured**  
SISTER ANN VERONICA of the Maryknoll Sisters who interned at St. Mary's Hospital Rochester finishing last June, is being featured in Look Magazine. Here the nun, resident surgeon at St. Vincent's Hospital, New York ponders problem of a man found in a coma in a "flop house" in lower New York City. Sister Ann Veronica was graduated from Marquette University College of Medicine in 1956.

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## VALENTINE'S DAY

has come a long way since it was the festive celebration of a heroic Christian martyr — St. Valentine (February 14). You can share the joy of this feast in a truly Christian fashion by sending a food package (\$10) to a fellow Christian who this very day faces the bitter winter winds without warm clothes and with an empty stomach. Father King, our assistant lives among these poor people as the representative of Our Holy Father. He will be most grateful for the help you give these suffering people through him and he will send you a rosary from the Holy Land as a pledge of their gratitude.

WHAT YOU GIVE TO THE POOR, YOU GIVE TO CHRIST.

The fearless spirit of St. Valentine flames anew in the souls of 300 Maronites in the village of Alma (Diocese of Tripoli). These heroic souls remain faithful to Christ although they live in an almost completely Moslem community. For some years now they have been struggling to build a small Chapel where they might worship God and deepen the love of Christ in their souls. Would you care to help them — for Valentine's Day? The cost of the materials is \$2,300 — the men of the parish will consider it a high privilege to erect the building with their own hands.

REMEMBER GOD AND HIS MISSIONS IN YOUR WILL

"I now have four sons in Christ," writes one generous soul who sets aside a portion of his pension check each month for the education of a priest. Daniel and Augustus are anxious to enter the seminary in Alway, India, to begin their preparation for the priesthood. Each needs a sponsor who will give \$100 a year to make these studies possible. If you wish to have a "son in Christ" you can send the money in any way you wish.

MASS OFFERINGS ARE THE SOLE SUPPORT OF MANY OF OUR MISSIONARIES.

A daughter in God who will spend her life in perpetual adoration of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament — Sister Georgia and Sister Stella Maria of the Adoration Sisters, Kaduhuruthy, India, are seeking spiritual adoption. Each needs \$300 to make her novitiate training possible. If you wish to give special honor to our Eucharistic King — you can make it possible for these young girls to give their lives in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

NO GIFT ESCAPES THE EYE OF GOD.

REMEMBER THE HOUSE OF THE LORD! The personal needs of the missionaries have been reduced to the bare necessities — but they continually plead for the "beauty of the House of God." They need sacred articles for their humble chapels. Can you give an article in memory of a loved one or for a special prayer granted by the Lord?

Mass bell ..... \$5 Monstrance ..... \$40 Altar stones ..... \$10  
Cruetfix ..... 15 Picture ..... 15 Stale ..... 10  
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