

NOVENA TO SAINT BERNADETTE

DAY ONE REFLECTION

St. Bernadette grew up in great poverty. Her father was a miller and her mother a laundress. Being the eldest of nine children, she played a large role in helping to raise her siblings. Bernadette is the patron saint of those who live in poverty.

DAY TWO REFLECTION

St. Bernadette suffered from physical illness throughout her life. She once said, "It is so good, so sweet, and above all, so beneficial to suffer." When asked why she did not receive physical healing herself, she replied, "You see, my business is to be ill." St. Bernadette came to understand the value of suffering in her own life.

DAY THREE REFLECTION

St. Bernadette had a great love for the Eucharist. She prepared hard to make her first Holy Communion even though her catechism class was very difficult for her. She once said, "The Eucharist bathes the tormented soul in light and love. Then the soul appreciates these words, 'Come all you who are sick, I will restore your health.'" St. Bernadette loved Jesus, truly present in the Eucharist, with all her heart.

DAY FOUR REFLECTION

St. Bernadette had a tremendous love and devotion for the Virgin Mary, especially in the most holy Rosary. Even before the apparitions, she would have her Rosary with her while in the fields as a shepherdess. She once said, "In the evening when you go to sleep, hold your beads, doze off reciting them. Do like those babies who go to sleep mumbling 'Mama! Mama!'" St. Bernadette saw herself as a child of the Blessed Virgin Mary, her heavenly Mother.

DAY FIVE REFLECTION

St. Bernadette experienced disbelief, especially by those who were closest to her, about the "Beautiful Lady" whom she said was appearing to her. Her sister made fun of her, her mother told her that she was dreaming, and her aunt said it was all an illusion. Through it all, she remained strong and calm. Bernadette is the patron saint of those insulted for their faith.

DAY SIX REFLECTION

St. Bernadette was asked by the Virgin Mary to "pray to God for the conversion of sinners." She once said, "O Jesus and Mary, let my entire consolation in this world be to love you and to suffer for sinners." St. Bernadette saw the value in offering up her daily sufferings for sinners, especially those in most need of God's mercy.

DAY SEVEN REFLECTION

St. Bernadette had a great perfection of obedience. When the Virgin Mary asked her if it would bother her to "get down on your knees and kiss the ground as a penance for sinners," she responded "Oh, no! With all my heart." When the Virgin Mary asked her to dig with her fingers in the mud, drink the muddy water, and then to eat the grass, she obeyed Her requests immediately and without any hesitation. People who witnessed it thought she was crazy for doing such things. But because of her obedience to the Virgin Mary's requests, a healing spring now exists. St. Bernadette ordered her life by being obedient to all of God's promptings and to all whom God put over her.

DAY EIGHT REFLECTION

St. Bernadette, at the young age of 14, had people questioning her regularly about the apparitions. She stated what happened over-and-over again, as they tried to confuse and trick her into speaking inconsistently. In response, she said, "My job is to inform, not convince." St. Bernadette always spoke the Truth simply and with conviction.

DAY NINE REFLECTION

St. Bernadette possessed profound humility. After all the attention she received from the apparitions, she referred to herself as a broomstick used by the Virgin Mary who, "when She no longer needed me, She put me in my place behind the door." She also said, "Those who are humble of heart will be glorified. How beautiful the heavenly crown will be for those who are genuinely humble despite outward humiliations, those who follow the humility of the Savior in every way." Through all her physical trials and difficulty in learning, St. Bernadette learned that which is most important, the splendid virtue of humility. She recognized that the Lord was the true source of all her strength.

NOVENA TO SAINT BERNADETTE OF LOURDES



Introductory Prayer

Dear Saint Bernadette, chosen by Almighty God as a channel of His graces and blessings, and through your humble obedience to the requests of our Blessed Mother, Mary, you gained for us the miraculous waters of spiritual and physical healing.

We implore you to listen to our prayers, that we may be healed of our imperfections.

Place our petitions in the hands of our Holy Mother, Mary, so that she may place them at the feet of her beloved Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that He may look on us with mercy and compassion: (mention request here...)

Help us, dear Saint Bernadette, to follow your example, so that irrespective of our own pain and suffering we may always be mindful of the needs of others, especially those whose sufferings are greater than ours.

As we await the mercy of God, remind us to offer up our pain and suffering for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for the sins and blasphemies of mankind.

Pray for us, St Bernadette, that like you, we may always be obedient to the will of our Heavenly Father, and that through our prayers and humility we may bring consolation to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary that have been so grievously wounded by our sins.

Holy Saint Bernadette of Lourdes, Pray for us.

Amen.

Concluding Prayer

Pray one decade of the Rosary.

Pray the Memorare:

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.

Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

Amen.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee. (Repeat three times)