

(Excerpts taken from The Woman and The Dragon: Apparitions of Mary by David Michael Lindsey)

. “On December 8, 1854, in *Ineffabilis Deus*, Pope Pius XI defined the doctrine of the Immaculate Conception...(It is) the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved from all stain of original sin in the first instant of her conception by a singular grace and privilege from Almighty God...(This truth) has been revealed by God and must therefore be firmly and constantly believed by the faithful.”

. On Feb. 11, 1858, Bernadette Soubirous was sent to the grotto of Massabielle near the River Gave to gather firewood with her sister Toinette and a neighbor girl.

.(Description in book)

. Bernadette observed the Lady but the others with her did not see anything. Yet, Bernadette explained to them what she had seen.

. Bernadette and the girls returned three days later with holy water. On the third time at the Grotto, the Lady asked Bernadette to return 15 more times.

. The Lady instructed Bernadette to “Pray for sinners!, undertake “Pentitence,” and to “Drink from the fountain and bathe in it!,” Later, the Lady requested a chapel to be built at the Grotto as well as for people to go there in processional form.

. On March 25, 1858 the Lady identified herself to Bernadette as The Immaculate Conception.

. On January 18, 1862, the Bishop of Tarbes, France declared the Lourdes apparition authentic and worthy of belief.

. Bernadette later entered The Sisters of Charity in Nevers, France at age 22 and remained there until her death on April 16, 1879. She was canonized by the Church on December 8, 1933.