

# Saint Bernadette of Lourdes

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Saint Dunstan's Catholic Church  
Toronto, ON



Bernadette was born on Jan 7, 1844 near Lourdes, France. Her parents were very poor and had many children. She was the eldest and suffered terribly with asthma from very young.



One day, Bernadette, her friend, and her younger sister were walking near the Gave river when she heard a rustling sound.



Bernadette looked up and saw a beautiful lady above a rose bush in a cave. The woman was clothed in white and blue. She smiled at Bernadette and made the sign of the cross with the rosary in her hands.



Trembling, Bernadette fell to her knees and started to say the rosary.

The lady suddenly disappeared, but Bernadette came back often to the same place to meet her. She said the lady told her to come everyday for fifteen days. No one else could see the vision of the lady and her parents tried to stop her from going. They were embarrassed as other people mocked Bernadette.



Drink the water of the spring and wash yourself in it. Eat the herb that goes here. Do this as an act of penance.



Bernadette, we don't see anyone.

Look at the beautiful lady. We must pray the rosary!

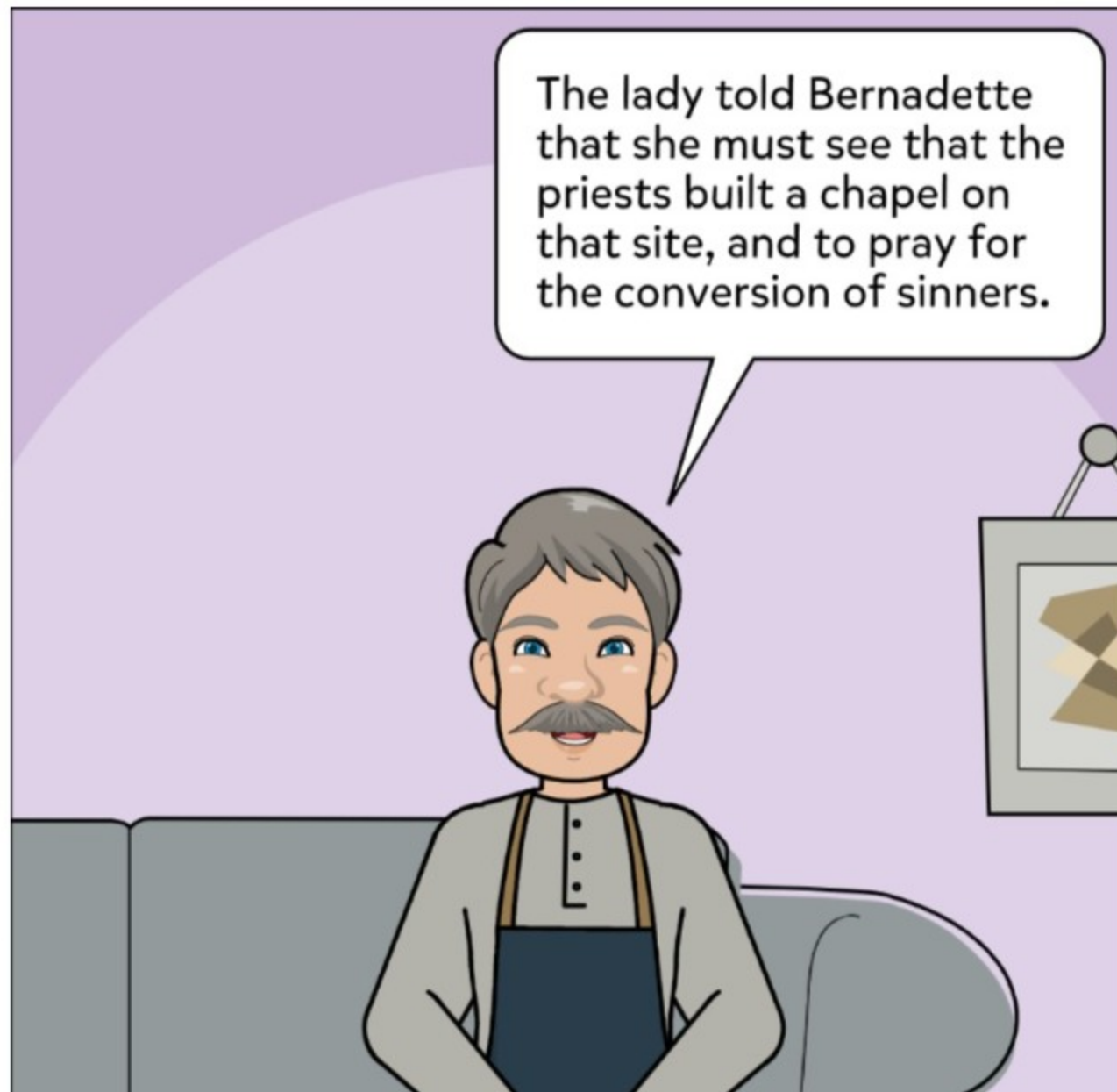


So what happened next?

The spring only had a few drops of muddy water at first. But after Bernadette tried several times, the waters turned fresh and clear, enough for her to drink.



The lady told Bernadette that she must see that the priests built a chapel on that site, and to pray for the conversion of sinners.



Bernadette died at the age of thirty-six. She was later canonized as a saint and her feast day is April 16. Her body is still preserved and can be seen through a glass coffin in Nevers, France. During one of her visions, Bernadette asked the lady who she was. Looking up to heaven, the lady responded, "I am the Immaculate Conception"