

St. Bernadette of Lourdes (1844-1879)

By Dianne Gotay



This was your home-
When Our Lady appeared to you-
This little abandoned jail called the "Cachot".
Four yards wide by four and one half yards long,
This was your home that you shared with your mother
and your father and three other children.
You were so poor and suffered from asthma,
And you weren't very smart at your studies.
Why did Our Lady pick you
At the Grotto of Massabielle?

Through you
The Basilica of the Immaculate Conception came to be,
The Miraculous Spring continues to flow,
And Our Lady revealed her name to the world:
"I am the Immaculate Conception."

Humble and obedient little child,
Faithful and exact messenger of Our Lady's words,
You turned from fame and fortune
Desiring to live the messages of prayer and penitence.
 You suffered all your life from ill health and poverty
 with generosity and joy.

From all over the world
people come to Lourdes,
in great processions to sing "AVE MARI A!"
From all over the world
we come to rejoice and thank God
during the Eucharistic blessing of the sick.

From all over the world
we come to stand here,
in what was your little home, the "Cachot",
and we honor you.