

Faithful who setting aside all human respect, proudly uphold the standard of the Church and of Mary by means of their own good example.

The three or four days passed at Lourdes were, as I have said, days of prayer of penance, of consolation and of salvation. Each day there was High Mass at the Basilica, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, and instructions either at the Basilica or the grotto.

On August 22nd, it was Monsignor Aloisi Mazella, the Pope's Nuncio in Portugal, who celebrated mass in the grotto. Every evening, at 8 o'clock, there was a meeting at the grotto, an announcement of what cures had been effected that day, and then a grand torch-light procession, with the *Ave Maria* sung by thousands of voices. The whole circumference of the Basilica was illuminated with thousands of colored lamps, the statue of the Blessed Virgin and the beautiful cross which adorns the Missionaries' promenade, also stood out in bright light against the darkness of the night.

What a fairy-like aspect had this procession! Thousands of lighted torches marked the windings of the mountain path from the grotto to the Basilica, then circling around the sanctuary of Mary like a burning ribbon, descended into the plain and there, as with floating stars, marked out the gigantic M, the sweet initial of our dear Mother's name, into which the pious Missioners have formed the path leading through the labyrinth in their grounds. Slowly, like a heavenly panorama, the procession defiles back to the grotto to say *good night* to the best of Mothers, and the lights are extinguished. Silence descends on all around, and in that night, the pilgrim's soul tastes once more, and in a still higher degree, that peace which God gives to "men of good will."

But the last hour of this heavenly holiday has sounded, and we must prepare to bid adieu to the enchanting and holy spot. Happy would we be could we dwell here in the very shadow of Mary, like the Carmelites, the Benedictines, the poor Clares, the Sisters