

Vatican Notes

Volume X

September - October 1961

Number 2

VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS



SAINT PATRICK

Shown above are the four stamps issued on October 6 to commemorate the fifteenth centenary of the death of Saint Patrick. They were produced by Italy's "Istituto Poligrafico dello Stato" at Rome. Perforation is 14, and printing is by photogravure, on paper watermarked with the usual crossed keys design, in panes of 40 subjects each. The stamps were designed by Eduardo Pizzi.

The 10L (yellow brown and green) and the 40L (lemon and green) values depict a medieval statue of Saint Patrick. Both stamps bear the inscription "S. Patrizio Apostolo d'Irlanda 461 - 1961."

The 15L (blue and black brown) and the 150L (ultramarine and red brown) values show a panoramic view of the island in Lough Derg known as "Saint Patrick's Purgatory." These stamps are inscribed "Santuário di S. Patrício 461 - 1961." (Sanctuary of Saint Patrick)

Lough Derg, located in County Donegal, is in the north central part of Ireland, close to the border of Northern Ireland. Saint Patrick is said to have often visited the island in Lough Derg for meditation and prayer.

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VATICAN CITY PHILATELIC NEWS



SAINT LEO MAGNUS

Illustrated above are the three values of a set issued on April 6th, commemorating the fifteenth centenary of the death of St. Leo I. All three values depict Algardi's "Pope Leo I meeting Attila," and were designed by Andreina Grassellini.

The stamps were printed by photogravure on paper bearing the usual crossed keys watermarks (sideways). Perforation is 14, and printing is in panes of 40 stamps each.

Leo the Great is remembered in history for his meetings with Attila the Hun, and for his success in preventing the barbarian leader from attacking Rome and spreading destruction throughout Europe.

Pope Leo's pontificate was marked by problems within the church, as well as without; it was he who convoked the Council of Chalcedon to condemn heresy and confirm church doctrine. Vatican collectors will remember that the Council of Chalcedon was commemorated in 1951 by a set of five stamps. Pope Leo is represented on the 25L and 60L values of this set, although the features shown are actually those of Pope Leo X.

Andreina Grassellini, the designer of these stamps, is the wife of Piero Grassellini, who collaborated with her in designing the Sede Vacante set of 1958.

VATICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

Treasurer's Report

TO: President, Vatican Philatelic Society

Balance reported on June 30, 1960

\$ 827.55

Received:

| | | |
|---|--|----------|
| Dues: | 1 Additional payment for 1959-60 | \$ 0.50 |
| | 580 Payments for 1960-61 | 1160 .00 |
| | 122 Payments for 1961-62 | 244.00 |
| | 7 Payments for 1962-63 | 14.00 |
| | 1 Payment for 1963-64 | 2.00 |
| | 2 Reinstatements at \$1.00 | 2.00 |
| | 1 Reinstatement at .50 | 0.50 |
| | 25 New members at 2.00 | 50.00 |
| | 15 New members at 1.50 | 22.50 |
| | 34 New members at 1.00 | 34.00 |
| | 61 New members at 0.50 | 30.50 |
| Sale of V.P.S. letterheads | | 6.25 |
| Sale of back issues of NOTES | | 0.25 |
| Return from NOTES Mailing Dept. | | 1.46 |
| Special contributions | | 1.42 |

\$1569.38

Sub-Total \$2396.93Paid:

| | |
|---|-------|
| Bank account service charges | 9.79 |
| Postage | 77.00 |
| Envelopes (1500) | 7.17 |
| V.P.S. letterheads (2000) | 22.64 |
| Membership cards (1000) | 11.30 |
| Membership application forms | 18.20 |
| Dues checks returned by bank (3) | 7.00 |
| Membership list - Supplies | 58.54 |
| - Postage | 36.84 |
| Sales Department - advance for expenses | 10.00 |
| - printing of invoices | 16.00 |

VATICAN NOTES

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------|
| Printing (6 issues) | 813.00 |
| Postage (5 issues) | 107.48 |
| Supplies (5 issues) | 40.25 |
| Bulk Mailing Fee | 20.00 |

\$1255.21

Balance on deposit at Worcester County National Bank

\$1141.72

Respectfully submitted,

s/ F. J. Levitsky, Treasurer

VATICAN ERRORS AND VARIETIES

Shown below are photographs of two specialty items which would please any Vatican collector. The first is a corner block of four of the 25 cent. value of the second definitive set. Printing is on bluish paper, colored through, and the block is entirely imperforate.

The second item is a corner block of four of the 10 cent. value of the 1931 Postage Dues. Note that the frame lines are completely missing from each stamp.

Photographs of these two scarce pieces were furnished through the courtesy of Rev. John Leahy of Wibaux, Montana.



1.



2.

Although the writer has not seen a copy, it is reported that the 500L value of the second "Dome" air mail set has been found with fraudulent perforation 14. This stamp normally comes perforated 13½. Collectors who may be offered the perf. 14 variety at a fancy price should examine the stamp very carefully, making sure that full, normal width margins appear on all four sides.

TO HINGE OR NOT TO HINGE.....

Current discussions in philatelic literature concerning the use of hinges vs. prepared mounts have served to inform collectors of the advantages and disadvantages of each method. There is nothing wrong with the use of a good quality hinge, and hingeing is probably the most satisfactory method of mounting.

Those collectors who have decided to use prepared mounts would do well to use caution in their selection. Mounts which do not allow air to reach the stamps should not be used. Those made of acetate are satisfactory if the acetate covers both sides of the stamp.

CHICAGOLAND CHAPTER of the V.P.S. has elected the following officers for the current year: president, Tony Rizzo; vice president, James C. Schiltz; secretary, John E. Walz; treasurer, James J. Doheny; directors, Stephen J. Sieben (past president), Ernest Jones and William J. Holton.

At the May COMPLEX exhibition in Chicago, Mr. Rizzo was awarded a second place in the Austin Philatelic Club section with 24 pages of his "SAINTS ON STAMPS" exhibit.

This active chapter started publication, in October, of a newsletter under the title of "The Epistle." Congratulations and good wishes for success in your venture!

V.P.S. member Clifford F. Holler of Tonawanda, N.Y. was the feature speaker at the September 26 meeting of the Bison Philatelic Society. Mr. Holler spoke on the stamp issues of Vatican City.

At the First National Hobby Exposition, held at Miraflores, Peru July 21 - 30, one of the feature exhibits was a collection of Vatican City stamps, shown by V.P.S. member Alberto Rios Verastegiu, of Lima, Peru.

A recent letter from V.P.S. member Rev. Emil Oestreich of Philadelphia outlines an apparent printing flaw on the 15 L value of the St. Paul Stamp. Fr. Oestreich describes the flaw as a distinct white line through the figure of St. Paul which did not extend into the brown color. An examination of ten sheets disclosed flaws on two sheets, as follows: (1) In the pillar, top row, one stamp. (2) In the figure of St. Paul, second stamp of both the second and third rows. The line ran in a continuous direction, but only through one color of the stamp.

We will be glad to have any comment from other collectors who may find similar flaws on any of their St. Paul issues.

An alert V.P.S. member, Richard J. Salvatore of St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, N.Y. has offered the following comment on the Works of Mercy set, described in the NOTES for November - December:

"I note that you have ascribed the Corporal Works of Mercy productions to Luca Della Robbia. May I hasten to correct this. The Della Robbia family was fairly large and several were famous for their terra cotta work -- in fact, they had a family workshop in which they produced them."

"Luca Della Robbia was the founder of the method, as you note. It was, however, his grandnephew, Giovanni Della Robbia who did the works in question."

Secretary Wallace Smith reports that tabulation of the results of the recent balloting for the revised Constitution and Bylaws showed an overwhelming "Yes" vote on each of the nine articles.

VATICAN NOTES for MAY - JUNE

No issue of the NOTES was published for May - June. The editorial transition required considerable time, and material on hand for publication became obsolete. Members will be advised in the next issue concerning the gap caused in the continuity of numbers in Volume IX.

EASTERN MASSACHUSETTS CHAPTER NO. 1 of the V.P.S. met on October 29 at St. Augustine's Rectory, South Boston. Speaker for the evening was Arthur Lohan of Newtonville. He discussed the 1945-46 Postage Due issues of Vatican City, using the stamps of these sets to illustrate the different printings by examination of background lines, paper, and gum shades.

Election of officers for this chapter takes place at the November meeting.

From time to time the philatelic press carries observations by various writers as to which Vatican City issues will prove to be "good." A recent gem, quoting from an English publication, suggests that among the stamps with a "future" are the 80th Birthday of Pope John set. Interesting, indeed, inasmuch as this set has not yet been issued!

RESEARCH PROJECTS

The July - August issue of VATICAN NOTES carried an announcement concerning appointment of a Research Coordinator for the Society. Members doing research on any phase of Vatican philately are urged to fill in the form below (or a facsimile) and send it along to:

Miss Rita Murphy
44 Beaver Street
Framingham, Mass.

| |
|----------------------------|
| <u>Research Project</u> |
| V.P.S. No. _____ |
| <u>Name and address</u> |
| |
| Wish information |
| Have information available |

WORLD REFUGEE YEAR

1.



2.



3.

An interesting variety occurs on the 110 L value of the World Refugee Year stamp issued on April 7th. The normal stamp is inscribed at the top "Anno Mondiale del Rifugiato," below which are shown the dates 1959 and 1960. The variety shows the 1960 date quite clearly as 1980. It is constant, and has been found only on the third pane, occurring as number 23.

Figure 1 shows the normal stamp, Figure 2 the variety, and Figure 3 a greatly enlarged photograph of a portion of the stamp shown in Figure 2.

In connection with the World Refugee Year issue, it is worthy of note that the total net proceeds from the sale of these stamps by the Vatican were turned over to the Stamp Plan of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Relief and Works Agency. The donation, approximating \$460,000, was the largest made by any of the 76 participating nations. Vatican City was the only member nation to donate the entire proceeds from sale of WRY stamps to the refugee program. Approximately \$50,000 of the Vatican's contribution has been sent to Viet-Nam for relief of the needy there.

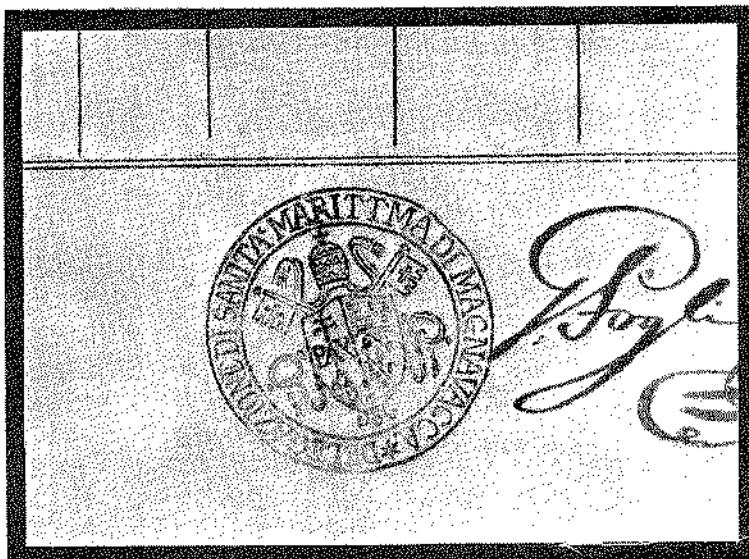
CHAPTER SECRETARIES.....

The activities of your chapter are NEWS! V.P.S. members are eager to know what is happening in the various chapters throughout the country; what programs are planned, and what progress your chapter is making. Please keep the Editor posted on your activities. No formal writeup is necessary - just give us the facts, and we will do the rest.

A review of the V.P.S. membership list indicates that we have a number of knowledgeable philatelists in the ranks, including several specialists. Short articles by these members on any phase of Roman States or Vatican philately are welcome, and will provide an excellent opportunity to share philatelic knowledge with fellow V.P.S. members.

PONTIFICAL STATE SANITARY COMMISSION CACHETS

We continue in this issue the excellent data published in the March - April NOTES by Dr. Karl F. Meyer, whose previous articles on Pontifical State Disinfected Mail Covers aroused considerable interest.



1.

Double circular lined cachet, 38 mm., inside 29.5 mm., black, 1818, with papal coat of arms surrounded by legend: "DELEGAZIONE DI SANITA-MARITTIMA (note spelling) MAGNAVACCA," a health office cachet on a sanitation pass issued by the Comune centrale di Sanita pel Littorale Pontificio dell' Adriatico.



2.

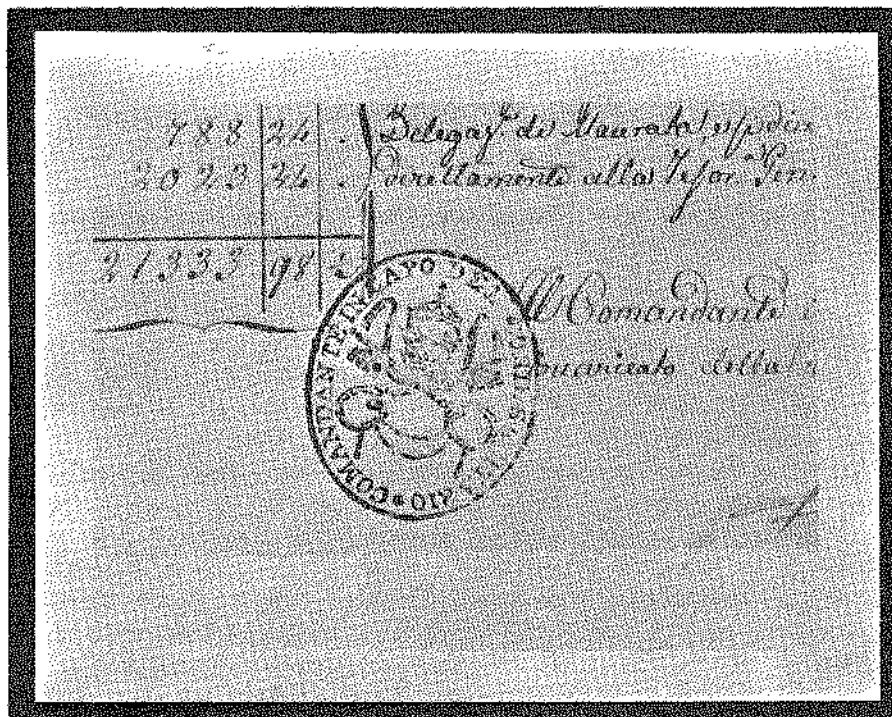


3.

(2.) Double circular lined cachet, 36 mm. x 27 mm., black, 1818, with papal coat of arms surrounded by legend: "CAPNIA. E DELEGAZ. DI SANITA DI RAVENNA." (Commandant and Health Delegation of Ravenna.) Health office cachet on a sanitation pass.

(3.) Double circular single lined cachet, 39 mm., inside 26 mm., black, 1817, papal coat of arms with legend: "CAPNIA. E DELEGAZ. DI. SANITA' DI RIMINO." Health office cachet or official quarterly report from Rimini.

PONTIFICAL STATE SANITARY COMMISSION CACHETS
(Continued)



4.

Oval single line cachet, 35 mm. x 30 mm., black, 1816, with center showing papal coat of arms surrounded by legend: "COMANDANTE IN CAPO DEL. CORD SANITARIO." Office cachet of the Health Officer of the Sanitary Cordon in Ancona. Vital statistics report on contagious diseases.



5.



6.

(5.) Double circular lined cachet (inner circle single line, outer circle double line) measuring 39 mm., and inside 29 mm., black, 1835, papal coat of arms with legend: "MAGISTRATO CENTRALE DI SANITA ANCONA." Health office pass issued in Ancona.

(6.) Circular single lined cachet, 34 mm., black, 1843, papal coat of arms with legend: "COMMISSARIATO DI SANITA" and below line "FALCONARA." On official letter to Monte marciano (Ancona).

LOURDES CENTENARY (Continued)

The initial article in this biography of Bernadette Soubirous appeared in the March - April NOTES.

On Sunday, February 28, Bernadette gave this message to the Lady when she appeared in the niche. The Lady smiled. Bernadette had to undergo penitential exercises of crawling on her knees and kissing the earth. That same day she was brought before Clement Rives, the Examining Magistrate, and he threatened her with imprisonment, but she was unafraid. Since she was breaking no law, she had to be released.

Francois Soubirous was present with his daughter for the first time at the grotto on Monday, March 1, the twelfth apparition. A pious woman of Lourdes had given Bernadette her rosary to use that day. As the prayers were about to begin, the Lady asked Bernadette where her beads were, and Bernadette indicated those in her hand. "Where are your own?" asked the Vision. "In my pocket" was the reply. "Let me see them," was the request of the Lady, and when they were brought forth, the Vision directed her: "Use those."

In the thirteenth apparition on March 2, a Tuesday, the request for a chapel was repeated, and another added: "I wish people to come here in procession." Going to Fr. Peyramale, Bernadette told of the request for processions, but forgot the repeated request for the chapel. Despite her trepidation, she returned to the parish priest to tell of this request. Again Fr. Peyramale repeated his request for the Lady's name, saying: "When we know that, we will build her a chapel."

On March 3 there was no apparition in the morning, but some hours later, urged by an inner call, Bernadette returned to the grotto, to see the Lady in her usual place in the niche. She was told that some people had profaned the grotto the night before and were present there that morning and were unworthy to be present at an apparition. Again there was a request for a chapel, which brought Bernadette back to the rectory. Fr. Peyramale asked Bernadette if she had the money to build it, and on receiving a negative reply, he instructed Bernadette to ask her Lady to give it to her.

March 4 was the last day of the fortnight, and there was a vast crowd present. Civil and military authorities were there by order of Baron Massey, the Prefect, to avoid disorder. Bernadette arrived at 7:00 A.M. and found more than 20,000 present. There was no unusual feature to the apparition except that all fifteen mysteries of the Rosary were recited. Bernadette went again to Fr. Peyramale with the two requests for chapel and processions, and he insisted that the Lady must reveal her name before anything could or would be done to fulfill her requests.

Early on the morning of March 25, the Feast of the Annunciation, Bernadette was awakened by an inner call and hurried to the grotto, arriving at 5:00 A.M. Massabiele was already crowded and the Lady was waiting in the niche. Bernadette apologized for being late, and was told that no apology was needed. Bernadette was asked to leave her lighted candle after her in the grotto, and she asked permission from her aunt, to whom the candle belonged. Three times she asked: "Madam, will you kindly tell me who you are?" The Lady disjoined hands and spread her arms as in the portrayal of the Miraculous Medal, allowing her rosary to slip to her wrist. Rejoining her hands before her breast and raising her eyes to heaven, she proclaimed: "I am the Immaculate Conception," and with a smile disappeared.

Hurrying to Fr. Peyramale, Bernadette repeated the message of the Lady. He was startled and asked her if she knew what the Immaculate Conception meant. Bernadette professed her ignorance. She was dismissed and Fr. Peyramale promised to look into the matter.

The message of Lourdes was complete, but Bernadette saw the Lady twice more in the grotto. On the Wednesday after Easter, Bernadette was in ecstasy for 45 minutes. The mother of Marshall Foch was present and there occurred an

Lourdes Centennial (continued)

event which had also happened at the third apparition; now, however, a doctor was present to examine Bernadette. More than once the flame from her candle licked her hand as she shielded it from the wind, but she did not withdraw her hand or give any indication of pain. The doctor testified that she had a normal pulse and respiration, and was free from over-excitement. A few days later District Attorney Dutour and Superintendent of Police Jacomet called her before them to question her again, but to no avail.

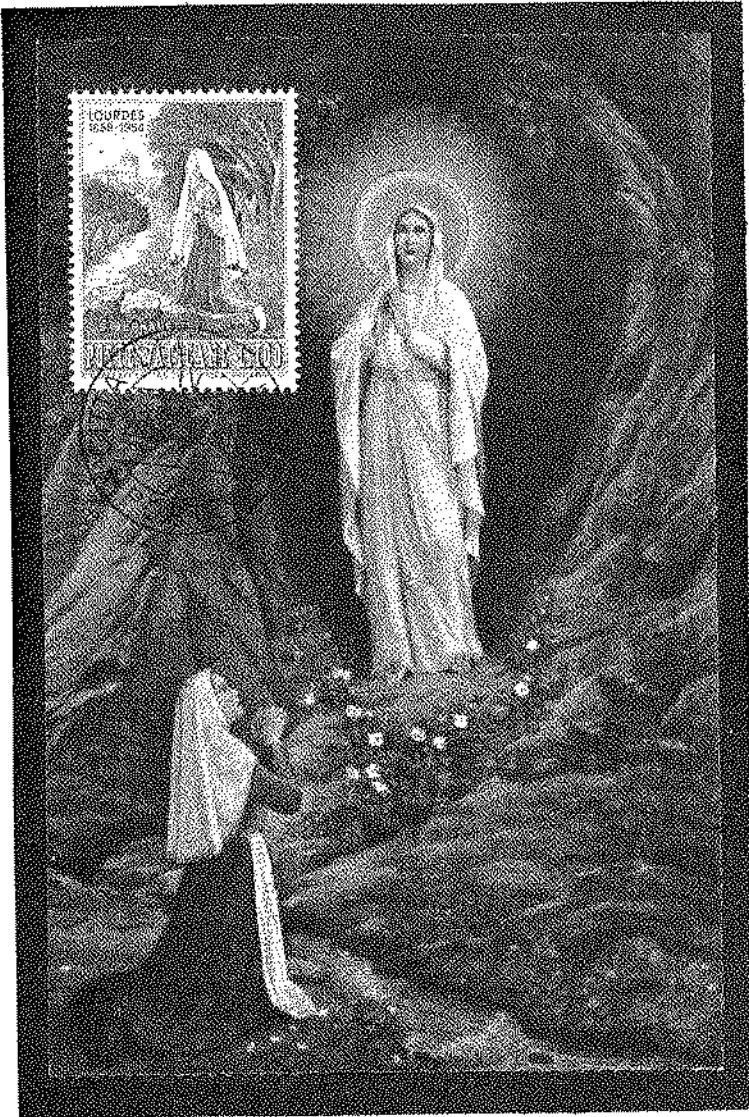
On the Feast of Corpus Christi Bernadette received her First Holy Communion, and on the same day the parish priest made a special report to the Bishop of Tarbes of a most favorable nature.

The final apparition occurred on the evening of July 16, 1858, the Feast of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel. Bernadette had attended Mass and received Holy Communion, and was praying in the parish church when the inner summons called her to the grotto. The grotto was at this time barricaded, and she went to a spot on the far side of the Gave River, and knelt facing the grotto. She had only begun her Rosary when the Lady appeared. The Blessed Virgin spoke no word, not even of farewell. Shortly before her death, Bernadette said she never saw the vision after this day.

Fr. Peyramale had asked the local clergy not to appear at the grotto. If the affair were to peter out, they would look ridiculous. If the occurrences were of divine origin, they were not needed. He was afraid that there had been a series of false visions, and that Bernadette might have been deceived by the devil. This left Bernadette to stand alone against the civil authorities.

Public opposition to Bernadette sprang from a minority which considered itself of the intellectually elite with independent views. Most were tinged with Voltairism. First they denied the facts. Then they alleged fraud, trickery, and clerical machination. As each charge had to be abandoned they claimed Bernadette was mentally ill. Public officials, concerned with maintaining public order, were determined to protect the public from fraud or an ill-balanced girl. Assuming the role of "Guardians of the Faith" they were hard in their opposition to Bernadette, thinking they acted for the good of religion.

Civil opposition traveled from the local level up to the Ministry of Worship in Paris. A place of public religious worship was being established without its permission. The Minister notified Baron Massy, Prefect of the Department of the Upper Pyrenees, and Bernadette was spied upon constantly.



Lourdes Centennial (Cont.)

Baron Massy decided to have her medically examined and committed to the Hospital of Tarbes. Mayor Lecade of Lourdes tried to dissuade him. Three Catholic doctors examined her and acquitted her of fraud, but stated that she might have been the victim of hallucination, caused by the sun's reflection on the rock. The grotto faced north and most of the apparitions occurred in the early mornings of February before the sun had risen. On this report Baron Massy prepared to commit her as a mental patient, but Fr. Peyramale intervened, saying that she would be taken only over his dead body.

The next step of the civil authorities was to declare the grotto an illegal place of worship. It was cleared of candles and flowers on May 4, and prosecution was threatened those who even spoke of the apparitions, but without effect. The grotto was closed and the taking of water forbidden by mayoral decree on June 8. The place was barricaded by planks and trespass notices posted. There had been no disorder, and the only effect of the waters of the spring had been beneficial. Fr. Peyramale attempted to restrain the rage of the people of Lourdes, but the barricades were knocked down four times and the trespass notices twice. Ironically, one notice was affixed to the very plank Francois Soubirous had been accused of stealing. People continued to take water from the spring despite the edict.

Mayor Lecade now thought of making Lourdes a spa resort, like other health spas of Europe, hoping the town would then prosper. Many cures had already resulted from the water, so he sent a sample of it to a second-rate chemist for analysis. A glowing report of its curative powers was returned, but the Municipal Council of Lourdes insisted that the most eminent chemist in southern France, M. Filhol of the University of Toulouse, make an analysis. He found it to be very ordinary water.

Three trespassers were arrested at the grotto on July 25. They were the Vicar-General for the Archdiocese of Auch; Louis Veuillot, editor of the Catholic newspaper "L'Univers;" and Madame Bruat, governess of the children of Emperor Louis Napoleon. Through the Ministry of Worship came the Emperor's command to remove the barricade, and Baron Massy removed it on October 5, 1858.

A rash of false visionaries rose in April of 1858 and lasted until February 1859. The contrast between these and Bernadette helped to forge a strengthened belief in the authenticity of her visions. Incredible and false accounts of Bernadette's visions were circulated in the press. The anti-Catholic papers of Paris heaped ridicule and sarcasm on the events at Lourdes.

The Bishop of Tarnes believed that the passage of time solved all problems, and in the traditional manner of the Church proceeded slowly in making a declaration for or against the authenticity of the visions. On June 21 three bishops stopped, by chance, at his residence. In discussing the occurrences at Lourdes they decided to set up a commission to investigate the visions. This was done on July 28 and the first meeting was held at the grotto. It was conducted by Fr. Peyramale, who was making his first visit there. Bernadette was questioned for an hour. Later they went to the parish church where she was questioned further and information regarding the cures attributed to the use of water from the grotto was recorded. But it was not until January 18, 1862 that the Bishop of Tarbes signed a pastoral letter giving his judgment on the apparitions at Lourdes. He judged the apparitions to have happened and proposed building a sanctuary there to Our Lady. The seal of authenticity was officially stamped on the apparitions by the investigation and declaration of the Church.