

Thursday, February 11, 2021  
Thursday of the Fifth Week in Ordinary Time  
*Our Lady of Lourdes*

God creates the first man and woman and there is no shame in their nakedness. The Syrophenician woman is not ashamed of being called a dog by Jesus but her humility and faith in Him makes her response favorable to Jesus and he cures her daughter of the demon that tormented her. Blessed are those who fear (who are in awe) of the Lord!

Today is the World Day of Prayer for the Sick as we commemorate Our Lady of Lourdes on the anniversary of her first apparition to St. Bernadette Soubirous on this day in 1858. The pilgrimage site in France has brought numerous documented cases of miracles as well as thousands attributed to the miraculous waters and Our Lady's intercession. Is it by chance that Mother Alfred Moes (a native of Luxembourg) founded the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate in Joliet, Illinois in November 1863, and would move to Rochester, Minnesota and establish the Sisters of St. Francis of Our Lady of Lourdes in 1878. Our Lady said to Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception" and thus, the name of the first order of nuns. After a devastating tornado in Rochester in 1883, these teaching sisters would also take care of the injured alongside the Mayo brothers, whose clinic became renowned throughout the world. St. Mary's Hospital would open in 1889 and the rest is history. Again, is it by chance that "Our Lady of Lourdes" would have her hand in the most prestigious medical facility in the world, caring for the sick?

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

God Love You!

*Fr. Jim Starasimich*

