



**Archdiocese of San Antonio**  
**Most Reverend Gustavo García-Siller**



**Homily - 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Mass for Our Lady of Lourdes**  
**February 11, 2015**

Over 150 years ago, in a village in France called Lourdes, a young girl was out walking along a hill. Her name was Bernadette. While Bernadette was walking along, she saw a beautiful lady standing on the rocks by a rose bush. This lady was surrounded by a strong, bright light and was praying a rosary. The lady was Our Mother, Mary! Mary called Bernadette over to her and started to speak with her. 18 times Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette, telling her different things during the visits. Today, we celebrate Our Lady's appearances on this feastday of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Our Lady told St. Bernadette to pray for sinners and for those who suffer. After a while, people started to notice that when they came to wash themselves in the pond near where Mary had appeared, they were healed of their sicknesses. People were healed of diseases, some who couldn't walk were able to, some who couldn't see started to see! This is amazing! Our Lady had given us a place where the power of the Holy Spirit would heal us

from our sufferings. This is why today is called the World Day of Prayer for the Sick

In our readings today we hear about God giving Adam and Eve the commandment not to eat the fruit from that one tree in the Garden of Eden. We know that they did actually eat it, and that we humans have been struggling with sinning ever since. This is something that all of us have a problem with. Your fellow students sometimes sin, your teachers, your parents, and even your Archbishop sins! Yes, it's true. But if you are honest with yourself, you know that you also sometimes do things you shouldn't do. This is what our Lord is warning us about today when he says that some things that come from us "defile" us. That word means that some of the things we do hurt us. They injure our holiness! But there is good news my friends. Just like God is healing people in miraculous ways at Lourdes and in many other places, he is healing our souls all over the world. We have two beautiful Sacraments of Healing: the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick. I know that most of you have been to confession, right? After this Mass I am going to go to the Cathedral and celebrate a Mass with the Anointing of the Sick. We have these Sacraments because God loves us and wants us to be with him forever. He wants to heal us body, mind, and soul.

So remember the beautiful truth. God loves you and wants to keep you strong and holy. Reject all those things that can hurt you and hurt your brothers and sisters in Christ. May we all live our lives in the grace of God, made whole in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes may we always remember that our Lord has come to save us.