

LOURDES

Place of Prayer and Hope

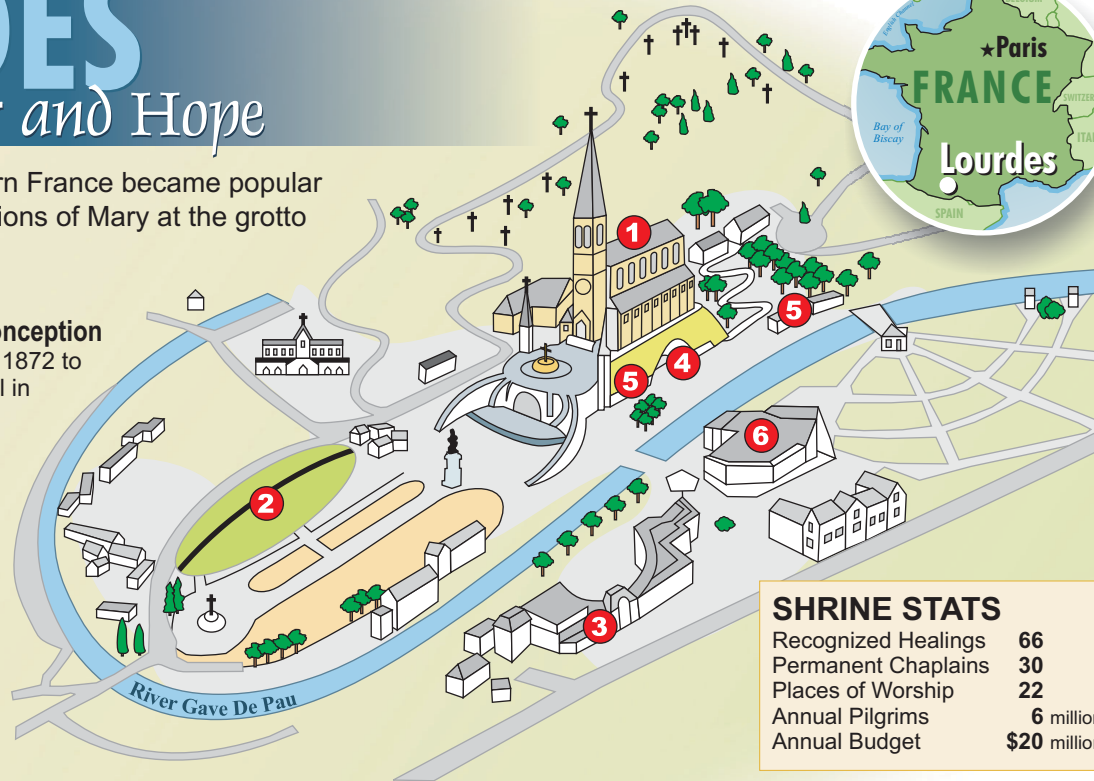
This site of pilgrimage in southern France became popular after St. Bernadette reported visions of Mary at the grotto more than a century ago



1 Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
Constructed between 1866 and 1872 to fulfill Mary's request for a chapel in her name

2 Basilica of St. Pius X
Designed by architect Pierre Vago in the form of an upturned ship – it was consecrated March 25, 1958

3 Accueil Notre-Dame
Hospitality house with 904 beds for sick or disabled pilgrims



SHRINE STATS

Recognized Healings	66
Permanent Chaplains	30
Places of Worship	22
Annual Pilgrims	6 million
Annual Budget	\$20 million



4 Grotto of Massabielle
Mary appears to Bernadette Soubirous 18 times between February and July of 1858. Only visible to Bernadette, Mary identifies herself as the Immaculate Conception.



5 Sacred Water
Mary instructs Bernadette to bathe and drink from a miraculous spring on Feb. 24, 1858. Millions of pilgrims have since sought healing by the same water.



6 Church of St. Bernadette
Blessed in 1988, this modern church accommodates 5,000 people.

Sources: HarperCollins Encyclopedia of Catholicism and www.lourdes-france.org

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LOURDES IN FRANCE — Lourdes in France has been a popular place of pilgrimage since St. Bernadette reported visions of Mary at the grotto more than a century ago. Pope John Paul II visits there Aug. 14-15 as part of his commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the solemn proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception. (CNS graphic by Anthony DeFeo) (Aug. 9, 2004)