A Hidden *Life* of *Love*



Did you know?

Bernadette eventually left Lourdes—not to become a public figure, but to disappear into the quiet life of a religious sister. In July 1866, at age twenty-two, she entered the Mother House of the **Sisters of Charity of Nevers** at Saint-Gildard. The following day, before approximately 300 sisters, Bernadette recounted the story of the apparitions one final time. Then she began an entirely different chapter of her life.

She wanted to care for the poor and the sick. Because of her own fragile health, her assignments included serving as an assistant nurse, working in the infirmary and later serving as a sacristan. She also embraced what the community described as a "mission of prayer."

Bernadette spent thirteen years at Saint-Gildard. Her life there was largely ordinary and hidden, marked by service, prayer, illness, and love. One of her beautiful resolutions captures the heart of her vocation: **"I want my whole life to be inspired by love."**

That may be one of the simplest definitions of holiness we could ever find.

"Then she began an entirely different chapter of her life, as Sister Marie-Bernard". She has had a new name as Sister when she inter the Convent in Nevers.

Take a Moment to Reflect:

What would change if we tried to let everything we do today be inspired by love?

Prayer:

St. Bernadette, help us to discover holiness in the ordinary acts of love and service that God places before us each day.