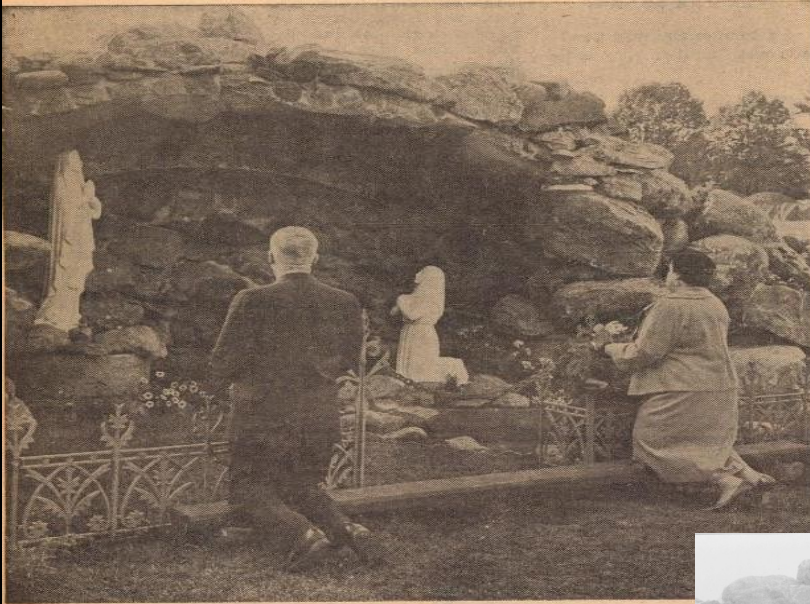


DEDICATION OF THE LOURDES SHRINE.

This coming Thursday, the feast of the Assumption, is a most fitting day to bless and dedicate the parish shrine to the veneration of Our Blessed Mother. Our parish is under the protection of St. Bernadette, and certainly Bernadette was a favorite of our Blessed Lady. If our parish is under the protection of St. Bernadette, who was so close to the Blessed Mother, surely we are blessed with an intercessor who can bring many blessings to each one of us. You might be interested in some of the facts involved in the building of this wonderful addition to our parish. It was built by Mr. Egan Juergens, in memory of his deceased wife. He accepted and paid for the bills involved in the erection of the shrine. It was designed by Mr. Leonard Schmidt, who spent countless hours supervising its construction. It was placed together by a mason contractor, Mr. Joseph Patrick, who with the help of Mr. Roland Wittig and some parishioners, spent the last four months in frantic labor to get it ready. The statues are hand-carved marble, purchased in Milan, Italy. There is approximately 300 tons of rock, dug from surrounding farms, used to mold the shrine. All of the above men are from neighboring parishes, and we wish to extend the thanks of the entire parish for their wonderful spirit in helping us. The rest is up to you. As we dedicate this wonderful shrine this Thursday during the 5:30 Mass, say a prayer of thanks for the men responsible and as you use the shrine, be mindful of how close we are to the Mother of God.

Pastor, Parishioners Build Shrine



Parishioners pray at St. Bernadette shrine.

MILWAUKEE—During the 5:30 p.m. Mass on the Feast of the Assumption, Aug. 15, a shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes was dedicated on the grounds of St. Bernadette's parish, 8300 W. Denver av., Milwaukee.

This shrine was the culmination of a long-standing dream of Fr. John Ahrens, pastor of St. Bernadette's, and over four months of planning and hard work by parishioners and friends of the parish.

The design of the shrine is the work of Leonard Schmidt who has also supplied the plans for other shrines in the area. Father Ahrens, himself, helped in the physical construction of the shrine, as did Joseph Patrick and Roland Wittig, personal acquaintances of the priest. Numerous parishioners added their assistance in bringing about the creation of the stone structure.

The rocks and huge boulders which form the outer shell of the shrine came from nearby farms. About 300 tons of rock were used. The statues of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette are of hand carved white marble from Milan, Italy.

Provision has been made so that the shrine and its water fountain and small reflecting pool can be fully lit at night.

The shrine was financed through the generosity of Egan Juergens who offered this assistance in memory of his deceased wife. He accepted and paid all bills.

During the dedication those attending the late afternoon Mass filed out of Church to the shrine which is located behind the parish cafeteria. They listened to a sermon preached by Father Ahrens and then witnessed his blessing of the shrine.



The Grotto today





5-2-68

BETTER LUCK, THIS TIME — Students at St. Bernadette school are keeping close watch on two peafowl whose predecessors flew the coop two weeks ago. The new birds have had their wings clipped, allowing them to roam the courtyard of school, 8300 W. Denver av.

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Thursday, April 18, 1968

2 Jailbirds Decide: Don't Fence Me In

Two fugitives flew the coop at St. Bernadette's Catholic school Wednesday night.

After an all-night search of the neighborhood, authorities reported them still on the loose Thursday, though they should not be difficult to find. They have fantails at least five feet long.

The runaways are peacocks, gifts to St. Bernadette's pastor, Father John Arens, from a friend in Oklahoma. The priest planned to let the birds roam in the parish's courtyard—now undergoing remodeling—which is bordered on one side by a glass walled corridor of the school at 8300 W. Denver av.

But the peacocks arrived a few days ahead of schedule, according to Mrs. Evelyn Teggatz, the school secretary, and one side of the

courtyard was not yet enclosed.

"So we put up a kind of a snow fence," she said, "thinking they would stay in. But at 9 o'clock last night we discovered they were gone."

Mrs. Teggatz described the birds as a male and female, about 3 feet tall, in full color with long fantails.

"And the birds are in the nesting stage and we figured we'd have an interesting thing going here," she said.

Mrs. Teggatz said she didn't think the birds had been stolen, for hardly anyone knew they had arrived. But school officials expressed concern for their safety.

"I just wish I knew whether they would be good eating," Mrs. Teggatz said.

THE MILWAUKEE JOURNAL

Saturday, April 20, 1968

Peafowl Hunt Fails to Flush Missing Birds

About 25 persons, beating bushes and waving flashlights, failed to find the hiding place of two fugitive peafowl on the northwest side Friday night.

The searchers, mostly men, were parishoners at St. Bernadette's Catholic church, 8300 W. Denver av. The two missing peafowl belong to the church's pastor, Father John Arens. They escaped from a church courtyard Wednesday night.

Arens said he received three calls Friday from persons who saw one of the birds near the 7200 block of N. Granville rd. The search lasted from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m.