

# Saints and sinners: Miracles do happen at Lourdes

In 1858, it was reported that the Virgin Mary had appeared to a peasant girl named Bernadette Soubirous in a grotto near the little French town of Lourdes.

As word of her visions spread (there were 17 subsequent appearances), thousands of people were drawn to the tiny village at the foot of the Pyrenees in southwest France.

It is now 143 years later, and still they come, a steady, never-ending stream of pilgrims.

An article in the Washington Post stated that 6 million people will flock to the sacred shrine this year.

Many come seeking a miracle. Only one in 40,000 experiences a cure. But if there is a chance you might be that one, it is worth the journey.

The Post story says that more than 2,000 sick

or crippled people have reported being cured after drinking or bathing in the water at the grotto.

Sixty-six of those recoveries have been certified as miracles by a medical board.

Doctors are generally skeptical of stories about miracles, but a few have changed their minds after coming to Lourdes. Alexis Carrel was one.

Carrel was a young physician of 30 and a member of the medical school faculty in Lyon, France, when he accepted an invitation from a priest to travel with the "sick train" to the little town of 18,000.

As he was making the rounds of the patients on the train, Carrel saw a 17-year-old girl named Marie Bailly lying prone on a mattress stretched across two seats. She seemed to be terminally



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ill, and the necessary preparations had been made in the event that she died before the train reached Lourdes.

"There is an incredible power of suggestion at a pilgrimage," Carrel acknowledged. "But it can have absolutely no effect on an organic disease like Marie's."

At noon the next day, Carrel saw Bailly being carried on a stretcher to the pool at Lourdes.

She was unconscious and near death. But at 2:30 p.m., a great change began to take place.

Suddenly, as Carrel watched from beside Bailly's hospital bed, the blanket covering her distended abdomen began to flatten. In a few minutes, her stomach was completely flat.

That evening, when Carrel went to her room, Bailly was sitting up in bed. Her recovery, Carrel saw for himself, was real.

Later that year, Marie entered the religious order of the Daughters of Charity, where she lived until her death 34 years later at the age of 51.

From that time on — as W. Sterling Edwards recounts in his biography of Carrel, "Visionary Surgeon" (Charles C. Thomas, 1974) — Carrel would make a pilgrimage to Lourdes every August.

In 1912, he won the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine. In 1933, he wrote "Man the Unknown" (Plon, 1997), a book that revealed him to be a doctor, philosopher and mystic. The book was a best-seller and was translated into 19 languages.

In 1941, in a Reader's Digest article titled "Prayer Is Power," Carrel wrote, "If you make a habit of sincere prayer, your life will be very noticeably and profoundly altered."

In prayer, this renowned man of science wrote, "we seek to augment our finite energy by addressing the Infinite Source of all energy. Even in asking, our human deficiencies are filled and we rise strengthened and repaired."

And, Carrel might have added from his own experience, we may sometimes witness a miracle.

## Diocese says: 'Danny Boy' is moving, but it isn't appropriate at Mass

By Brian Carovillano

*Associated Press Writer*  
PROVIDENCE, R.I. — The ballad "Danny Boy" has long been played at funerals, wakes and memorial services, its mournful strains conjuring up images of Ireland's green pastures and wind-swept hills.

New York Fire Chief Peter Ganci, killed in the World Trade Center attack, actor Carroll O'Connor and John F. Kennedy Jr. all were laid to rest with the plaintive melody.

So when the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence banned "Danny Boy" and other secular songs from funeral Masses, it raised the ire of Irish-Americans.

"I want 'Danny Boy' sung at my funeral Mass and, if it isn't, I'm going to get up and walk out," retired Pawtucket police officer Charlie McKenna wrote in April to The Providence Visitor.

The weekly diocesan newspaper got

dozens of letters, some from as far away as California, urging Bishop Robert E. Mulvee to reverse his decision — at least when it came to "Danny Boy." So far, he hasn't.

"The controversy took on a life of its own," said the Rev. Bernard A. Healey, theological consultant to the Visitor. "I don't blame people, but really it's a lack of understanding of what a funeral Mass is supposed to be."

"It's about their connection with Jesus Christ and the church, not their connection with the Emerald Isle."

Other bishops have left the question of funeral music up to parish priests.

The Archdiocese of New York, which has buried scores of police officers and firefighters since Sept. 11, often playing "Danny Boy" at the service, usually discourages the use of secular music during Mass.

"All music played at church services

should be liturgically appropriate music," said Joe Zwilling, a spokesman for the archdiocese. "But we don't have a policy about any one song, or a list of songs that can't be used."

Besides lacking the appropriate piety, the song itself can counter what funeral services are supposed to accomplish, Healey said.

"Part of what I do at a funeral Mass is try to lift people's spirits," he said. "But the song is emotionally manipulative. Everything I've spent the last hour working toward is gone within two minutes because everyone is reduced to tears."

Despite its popularity among Irish-Americans, the song's lyrics were actually penned by an Englishman, Frederick Edward Weatherly, in 1913, and set to the tune of the 17th century Irish folk song, "Londonderry Aire."

"Danny Boy" tells the tale of an Irish lad called to military duty by the sound

of distant bagpipes, and a loved one who promises to wait for him. "Tis I'll be here in sunshine or in shadow / Oh Danny boy, oh Danny boy, I love you so," go the wistful lyrics.

The tune has long been cherished by police officers and firefighters, who identify with its message, McKenna said.

"Danny's answering a call, and it's uncertain whether he's going to return or not," he said. "If you think about it, a policeman and a fireman, they do the same thing. What happened in New York is a perfect example."

Also, fire and police departments have historically been dominated by Irishmen, another reason why "Danny Boy" is often blown on the bagpipes during ceremonies for fallen officers.

Tom Deignan, a columnist for the New York-based Irish Voice newspaper, wrote about the controversy in July and

was inundated with letters from across the country.

Some readers circulated a pro-"Danny Boy" petition that they intend to present to Mulvee.

"Ninety-nine percent were saying it was ridiculous," Deignan said. "Just to judge from the reaction we got, it's clear that song means a lot to a lot of people."

The song has been played at many funerals connected to the World Trade Center attacks, he said, often by the New York Police Department's Emerald Society bagpipers.

"The Irish community was hit particularly hard by the tragedy," Deignan said.

Back in Providence, Mulvee's decision may be unpopular, but he's on solid ground from the church's perspective.

Church documents plainly advise that popular ballads be excluded from Mass, said David Early, a spokesman for the United States Conference of Catholic

Bishops.

"These kinds of songs should clearly be avoided," Early said. "But it's not a matter of church doctrine. It's a pastoral decision left to the interpretation of the local bishop."

No other American church leader appears to have taken as strong a stand on the issue as Mulvee.

"If you allow 'Danny Boy,' then you open all kinds of other questions about what should and shouldn't be allowed," said Healey, who personally has rejected requests to have Frank Sinatra's "My Way," John Denver's "Annie's Song," and Bette Midler's "Wind Beneath My Wings," played at funerals.

The diocese formed a committee to look at the infiltration of secular music, Healey said, and the group intends to send a letter by the end of the year to parishes detailing what is acceptable during Mass.

### Bible Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Don Crutcher

Fifth & Broadway  
899-7368

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10 am

Evening Service: 6:30 pm

**Wednesday:** Evening Bible Study: 7 pm

### Calvary Gospel Church

**Pastor:** Rev. Steve Rains

Fourth & College • 899-3605

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

**Wednesday:** Family Night: 7 pm

Adult Bible Study and Youth Group

**Saturday:** Prayer Meeting: 5-7 pm

If you would like to receive a free newsletter, please call the church office.

### Church of Christ

401 Caldwell

899-6185

**Sunday:** Bible Study: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:45 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

**Wednesday:** Bible Study: 7 pm

### Church of the Nazarene

**Pastor:** Matthew Delp

Third & Caldwell

899-2080 or 899-3797

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am

Worship Service: 10:50 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

**Wednesday:** Evening Service: 7 pm

### First Baptist Church

**Pastor:** Bud Chester

Fifth & Center • 899-3450

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am

Morning Worship: 10:30 am

Evening Worship: 6:30 pm

**Tuesday:** Mens' Prayer Group: 6:00 am

**Thursday:** Night Bible Study: 7:00 pm

### Seventh Day Adventist Church

1160 Cattletrail

**Pastor:** Arlin Cochran • 785-332-2888

**Saturday:** Sabbath School: 9:30 am

Worship Service: 11 am



## First Christian Church

### First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

**Pastor:** Loren Strait

Eighth & Arcade • 899-5233

**Sunday:** Worship Service: 10:30 am

Sunday School 9:15 a.m.

**Activities:** Junior High & High School Youth Groups,

Adult Bible Study, Choir, Men's and Women's Groups,

Devotions Study, Monthly Fellowship

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### First United Methodist Church

1116 Sherman

899-3631

**Pastor:** Rev. Carol Moore-Ramey

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:15 am

Worship Service: 10:30 am

### Sonrise Christian Church

Ninth & Caldwell • 899-5398

**Minister:** Tony Kafka

**Youth Minister:** Doug Bean

**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9:30 am

Sunday School: 10:45 am

**Wednesday:**

Junior/Senior High Meeting: 7 pm

Adult & Children's Classes: 7 pm

### Emmanuel Lutheran Church

13th & Sherman • 899-6161

**Pastor:** Scott Grimshaw

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 8:45 am

Worship Service: 10 am

**Wednesday:** Confirmation: 6 pm

### Kanorado

#### United Methodist Church

**Pastor:** Leonard Cox

399-2468

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9 am

Worship Service: 10:15 am

### Goodland Bible Church

109 Willow Road • 899-6400

**Pastor:**

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 9:45 am

Morning Worship: 11 am

Evening Worship: 6 pm

**Wednesday:** Call for location

### Grace Fellowship Church

104 E. Hwy 24 • 899-6423

**Pastor:** Bob Snyder • Residence: 899-0134

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

Worship Service: 11 am

### St. Paul's Episcopal Church

13th & Center

899-2115 or Rectory 899-2114

**Priest:** Father Charles Schneider

**Deacon:** Gretchen Talitha

**Adult Forum:** Sunday : 8:30 am

Morning Prayer: 9:30 am 1st & 5th Sundays

**Holy Eucharist:** 2nd, 3rd, & 4th Sundays: 9:30

Sr. Warden for emergencies during the week 899-2067

### Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints

1200 15th Street • Burlington, CO • (970) 664-2470

**Sacrament Meeting:** 9:30 am

**Sunday School:** 10:45 am

**Priesthood/Relief Society:** 11:30 am

### Word of Life Foursquare Church

223 E. 10th

899-5250

**Pastor:** John Coumerilh

**Sunday:** Worship Celebration &

Kids' Church: 10:30 am

### United Methodist Church

**Brewster:**

**Pastor:**

Worship Service: 10:45 am CST

Sunday School: 9:45 am CST

**Winona:**

**Minister:** Rev. Bob Winters

Worship Service: 9 am CST

Sunday School: 10:15 am CST

### Iglesia Del Dios Vivo

La Luz Del Mundo

Spanish Speaking Church

**Minister:** Esteban Ortiz B.

1601 Texas • 899-5275

**Daily Prayer:** Sunday thru

Saturday: 5 am & 6 pm

**Sunday:** Sunday School: 10 am

### Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Pastor:** Father Daryl Olmstead

307 W. 13th • 899-7205

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

4:30-5 pm Saturday or by appointment

**Mass Schedule:**

**Saturday:** 6 pm

**Sunday:** 8 am and 9:30 am

**Spanish Mass:**

1st & 3rd Sunday: 2 pm

### Pleasant Home Church

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899-5784

**Sunday:** Worship Service: 9 am

Sunday School: 10 am

Evening Service: 6 pm

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