

Virgin Mary herself

Lourdes, France, on a number of occasions in the 1850s.

By VINCENZO SARDI / Weekly World News
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VATICAN CITY — A researcher has discovered a letter written by St. Bernadette — and it contains startling prophecies revealed to the famed French saint at Lourdes by the Virgin Mary herself!

Incredibly, four prophecies of Our Lady of Lourdes have already come true — and the fifth and final prophecy of Lourdes is due to be fulfilled in the year 2000.

“St. Bernadette’s letter was sent to the Pope 120 years ago — but it became misplaced and was missing until last December when I stumbled across it at the Vatican library,” said Father Antoine LaGrande, a French cleric who was researching a book on the miracles of Lourdes.

“This remarkable document tells us in very precise terms what awaits mankind when the new millennium arrives.”

Most Americans have heard the story of Bernadette, a French girl who claimed she was visited several times by the Virgin Mary in a grotto near the small village of Lourdes in the 1850s.

Later, a spring bubbled up at the site — just as St. Mary told Bernadette it would — and soon peasants were attributing miraculous cures to the waters. The famous shrine to Our Lady of Lourdes was constructed there and now every year millions of believers make a pilgrimage to the shrine, seeking — and sometimes receiving — cures.

Bernadette eventually entered a convent where, ironically, she succumbed to an incurable illness. Shortly before her death in 1879, she wrote a letter to the Pope, in which she detailed five prophecies that had been revealed to her by St. Mary. The contents were never made public, and when inquiries were made around the turn of the century, red-faced Vatican officials admitted that the letter written by the nun — who was canonized after her death — had simply been lost.

Father LaGrande said he uncovered the

long-lost letter in an iron box in a basement storage room in the Vatican library. On each of its five pages was a prophecy relating to a specific time period.

Four of these prophecies have come to pass, just as St. Bernadette predicted. The fifth, which relates to year 2000, has yet to occur.

“The First Prophecy of Lourdes dealt basically with what would happen to the shrine in the years soon after St. Bernadette’s death, explaining how it would become a renowned center for healing,” he said. “This is certainly true.”

The Second Prophecy described an array of varied scientific achievements involving “the harnessing of lightning” that were to take place before 1900. “This came true with the invention of the lightbulb, the phonograph and other inventions using electricity,” said Fr. LaGrande.



FATHER Antoine LaGrande

The Third Prophecy stated that in the 1930s a terrible evil would awaken in Germany, and painted a horrifying picture of a war that would envelop most of the nations of the world. “This came to pass with the rise of Adolf Hitler and the advent of World War II,” said Fr. LaGrande. The Fourth Prophecy told in de-

tail of an effort that would be made by mankind to reach the heavens, and predicted that close to 1970 an American would walk on the moon. “This prophecy was fulfilled when the astronaut Neil Armstrong landed on the moon in 1969,” said Fr. LaGrande.

The Fifth Prophecy is the most extensive of all. Below, excerpted from the letter of St. Bernadette, and translated from the original French, is the Fifth Prophecy of Lourdes:

“Your Holiness, the Virgin has told me that when the 20th century passes away, with it will pass away the Age of Science. A new Age of Faith will dawn around the world.

“Proof will come at last that it was Our Lord who created the world and Man, and this will be the beginning of the end for the scientists, in whom the people will cease to believe.

“Millions will return to Christ, and as the numbers of believers swell, the power of the Church will grow as never before.

“Also causing many to turn their backs on science will be the arrogance of physicians who use their knowledge to create an abomination.

“These doctors will find the means to combine the essence of a man and the essence of a beast and create a newborn creature that is neither fully man nor fully beast. The people will know in their hearts that this wrong, but they will be powerless to stop the spawning of such monsters.

“In the end they will hunt scientists down as ravaging wolves are hunted.

“On the eve of the year 2000, a final clash between the followers of Mohammed and the Christian nations of the world will take place.

“A furious battle will be waged in which 5,650,451 soldiers are killed and a bomb of great power will fall on a city in Persia [modern-day Iran].

“But in the fullness of time, the sign of the cross will prevail and all of Islam will be forced to convert to Christianity. There will follow a century of peace and joy as all the nations of the Earth lay down their swords and shields.

“Great prosperity will follow as the Lord showers His blessings down upon the faithful. No family on Earth will know poverty or hunger.

“One person in 10 will be granted by God the power to heal and they will cast out all sicknesses from those who seek their aid. Many will rejoice at these miracles. The 21st century will come to be