



Place the cardboard box train in front of the room. When all campers are present, blow the train whistle. Shout out, All ABOARD The Queen of Heaven Express! Next stop: Lourdes, France! See **Decorating Ideas** in the Director's Guide for box train construction suggestions.

Say: Good morning campers! This week we will be boarding *The Queen of Heaven Express* to track (follow) Mary's appearances on earth. Why does Mary come down from heaven? She comes so you will know that she is always with you. She comes to help you love Jesus. Mary brings messages to help us grow closer to Jesus so one day we can live in heaven. On *The Queen of Heaven Express*, we will travel to some of the far away places Mary appeared. Would you like to be passengers on this train?

Campers, fasten your seatbelts! (*Campers buckle up*) *The Queen of Heaven Express* is moving FULL SPEED AHEAD! First stop: Lourdes, France!

Directions: Blow the train whistle, and shout out, ALL ABOARD *The Queen of Heaven Express*. (*Campers line up next to the train and get their ticket-nametags punched by the Conductor (adult). Campers move through the boxcars and back to their places. Remember to collect ticket-nametags at the end of each day.*)



MARY'S MESSAGES STORYBOOK

Read:

Our Lady of Lourdes (pg. 1-2)

Directions: Prior to reading *Our Lady of Lourdes* aloud to the campers, become familiar with the content by reading it several times. Fold the book so that the picture side is visible and read with enthusiasm.

Say: Many years ago Mary appeared 18 times to a poor, little, peasant girl named Bernadette. Mary appeared to share a special message with the world. This happened in the far away country of France in a place called Lourdes. Because Mary appeared here, we call her Our Lady of Lourdes. Are you ready to listen to this story? (*Read the story*)

Say: Although Bernadette's family was very poor, she was raised in a family whose greatest riches were their faith. Like St. Bernadette, you can be rich in faith

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1

LESSON SUPPLIES: Adult Engineer Hat (*Faith Leader*), Cardboard Train, Train Whistle, Hole Punch, Train Roll Template (p.2), Cardstock, Dice, Highlighters, Mary's Messages Storybook, Family Take Home.

too. How? Believe in Jesus and His teachings, pray the rosary, be humble and kind, and love God with all your heart. Do you remember in the story when the sick were healed by going into the water? It was their faith that healed them. They BELIEVED God would heal them. St. Bernadette said, "*One must have faith and pray; the water will have no virtue (healing power) without faith.*"



FOCUS: Immaculate Conception

What do you know about Mary's parents? Mary's mother's name was Ann and her father's name was Joachim. They were very *holy* people. In fact they were so *holy* that the church declared them saints. WOW! Can you IMAGINE being raised by two saints! They could not have a baby so they prayed to God. They promised God if they would conceive a baby, they would raise their child to SERVE Him. God blessed the union of Ann and Joachim. Mary was different from all the babies in the world because she was conceived without original sin, the sin of Adam and Eve. Our church calls this the *Immaculate Conception*. IMMACULATE, what does this word mean? Has anyone ever told you to keep your room IMMACULATE? What about, you'd better keep those clothes IMMACULATE before church? IMMACULATE means spotless, clean, perfect, SPICK and SPAN! That is exactly how Mary's *soul* looked. She would be FREE from sin from the very beginning because one day in her womb she would carry Jesus, the Savior of the World!

LESSON ACTIVITY - Train Roll

Supplies: Train Roll Template (p.2), Cardstock (*white*), Highlighters, Dice

Directions: Copy template onto white cardstock, 1 per 4 campers. Divide campers into groups of (4) and give each group (1) die and (1) highlighter. Take turns rolling the die to cover the numbers on the train template. The first camper in each group to cover all of the numbers is the WINNER!

Say: We are going to play a dice game called *Train Roll* to find out who can get to Lourdes the fastest. Take turns rolling the die, and use the highlighter to cover the number you rolled. Skip a turn if you roll a number that is already covered. The first camper to cover all the numbers is the WINNER!

