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PATHE JOURNAL

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INTERNATIONAL PILGRINAGE IN LOURDES

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ORIGINAL NEGATIVE/ 270 m = 900 ft

EXCLUSIVE

Over 6000 pilgrims since February 1958 have made the ALL-NIGHT VIGIL in Lourdes, having begun for three years first at various shrines in England to pray all night without any beds, for the end of Communism and Christian Unity, believing that prayer and penance is the greatest spiritual weapon which all Christians can use to overcome this evil, and bring peace and Christianity back to the world.

Pilgrims come in week by week this October, in a fleet of six or seven planes from England and Ireland, in numbers large enough to have their own procession and fill the top church all night. They come for the whole night, no beds are booked except for the one or two sick who come with each plane and who often refuse the beds provided for them. SEVENTY Americans were due to join this Vigil for the first time, willing to pay 100 Pounds to spend 36 hours of prayer in Lourdes - but their charter flight was refused permission to fly; praying all night did not qualify as a "closed group".. They were not a football club... Charter Acts never thought of Christians crossing the Atlantic to pray all night and return to the U.S.A. at once.

In September the group had pilgrims praying on the same night in Lourdes and in Rome where the Holy Father blessed the pilgrims' banner in Saint Peters.

The first Night of Prayer was in an open field in 1954 at the ancient Shrine of Walsingham Norfolk, because the tiny chapel could not hold the 150 pilgrims who had come to spend the night in prayer and penance for Russia.

Pictures includes

- shot on arrival airplane at Ossun airport
- Pilgrims praying along the way to top-church
- views of Lourdes and of pilgrims praying
- night procession etc...