With the theme, "Virgin of Lourdes, watch over our country and bring us to Jesus", the annual shrine novena began on Thursday, February 2, 2017, in preparation of the 159th anniversary of Our Lady's appearance to Bernardette Soubirous.



On Saturday, February 4, 2017, about 50 singers gathered at the shrine to mark the 40th Vigil of "Singing God's Praises", a celebration that has given thousands of people an opportunity to know, appreciate, and understand this beautiful tradition that has provided an effective evangelization of the Central Region of Chile, although its effects have been felt from north to south of the country.

Fr. Julio Navarro, former vicar general of the Assumptionists now residing in Santiago, presided at the Eucharist for this group of singers and in his homily pointed out, "You have come to sing to the Virgin not in your name only, but in the name of your families, your neighbors and friends. In fact, you come to the Virgin in the name of the entire People of God in Chile, in the name of the whole Church. You represent many --- all those who have a devotion to the Virgin".



In many of the songs sung that night in the grotto, one could hear prayers for the well-being of the country, and especially for those who are being so adversely affected by forest fires.



