

## 2005 Pilgrimage Schedule

April 10–16	Steubenville Austria Volunteer Service
May 15–21	Volunteer Orientation Pilgrimage—JFK
20–30	St. Isaac Jogues Volunteer Service—JFK (International Military Pilgrimage)
June 10–20	St. Jean de Brébeuf Volunteer Service—JFK
11–17	St. René Goupil Medical Professionals: JFK and CINCINNATI Departures
19–25	St. Juan Diego Youth Catechesis & Service
July 15–25	St. Charles Garnier Volunteer Service—JFK
August 5–15	St. Marcellin AB Molloy HS Volunteers—JFK
September 9–19	St. Antoine Daniel Volunteer Service: JFK and ATLANTA Departures
October 7–16	Rosary Volunteer Service Pilgrimage—MIAMI
8–15	St. Bernadette Special Needs Pilgrimage JFK and ATLANTA Departures
9–15	Steubenville Austria Volunteer Service

**October 30** *2006 Schedule To Be Announced*



*Steubenville's Father Dennis Gang Offers Mass in the Grotto*

Dear Friends,

This is the inaugural issue of our apostolate newsletter. It marks a milestone in our progress from a small at-home operation with 10 volunteers in 2002... through 2003 when we were able to bring nine groups... to last season when our number of volunteers and pilgrims rose to two hundred. We're moving ahead at an encouraging pace extending Our Lady's invitation.

To all our benefactors and volunteers who have served and continue to serve, we wish to express to you our sincere gratitude for making all of this possible.

In Christ and Our Blessed Mother,  
**Larry Crandall**  
 Chairman of the Board of Directors

## Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers



# Lourdes Letter

*"the Newsletter for friends of St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes"*

## Remembering Pope John Paul II at Lourdes An Example of Spiritual Journey for the Aged, Sick and Dying

Pope John Paul II put pilgrimage into fresh focus when he appeared in Lourdes last August as a private pilgrim. This was not an official Papal visit, *but a pilgrim who was Pope*. He stayed where the sick and handicapped pilgrims stay—in the Accueil Notre-Dame (hospital-like facility of the Sanctuary). He came as a pilgrim "nearing the end of his life pilgrimage journey on earth..."



**Lourdes Pilgrim Pope**

The Grotto was temporarily cordoned off allowing a single pilgrim to make a private visit for prayer and personal reflection. Over 300,000 pilgrims attended Mass in the Prairie on the Feast of the Assumption, August 15.

Whenever we are sick, we can now remember John Paul II and his pilgrimage as an inspiration and holy example for us to also make a spiritual journey to Lourdes.

*Dear Brothers and Sisters Who Are Sick,*

*How I would like to embrace each and every one of you with affection, to tell you how close I am to you and how much I support you. I now do so in spirit, entrusting you to the maternal love of the Mother of the Lord and entreating her to obtain for all of us the blessings and consolation of Jesus her Son.*

*Greeting of Pope John Paul II*

*To the Sick in Lourdes on Saturday, August 14, 2004*

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### Inside this issue:

Youth Catechesis and Service	2
Tax Deductible Volunteers	2
In the Footsteps of Bernadette	2
Travel Tips: Reward Miles	2
Guadalupe House in Lourdes	3
Our Insignia Explained	3
Volunteer Wedding Bells	3
2005 Pilgrimage Schedule	4

### Prayer, Masses or Candles:

Please contact us to request a candle be lit in the Grotto, to receive Lourdes water, or to offer your prayer intentions in the Grotto or at Mass at Lourdes.

Call (315) 476-0026  
 Email or the web at:  
[www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org)

To Comment, Request Copies,  
 Inquire or Make a Donation:

Phone: (315) 476-0026  
 US Toll-Free 1-866 LOURDES

Visit us on the Web!  
[www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org)

### OUR MISSION:

*"To extend the invitation of Mary, the Mother of God, to serve the sick and suffering at Lourdes and at home as exemplified by St. Bernadette in obedience, humility and simplicity."*



Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, LTD.  
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### RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Lourdes Volunteers "Extending the Invitation..." on EWTN Live!

The mission of the Lourdes Volunteers is to "extend the invitation of Mary the Mother of God to serve the sick and suffering both at Lourdes and at home..." The invitation was fully extended on EWTN Live! February 23.

With an impressive 400,000 to 1 million homes viewing audience, EWTN rates more viewers than CNN.

Father Peter J. Di Maria and Marlene Watkins were the guests of Father Mitch Pacwa. The host guided the interview with live audience and call-in questions leading to interesting discussions about the care and travel of the sick and special needs pilgrims at Lourdes.

The interview began with an introduction to the history of

the Marian 1854 Immaculate Conception Dogma by Pope Pius IX and his public prayer for the manifestation of the wonders and signs such as now found at Lourdes.

The founding of the North American Volunteers and the invitation to serve were well received as volunteers staffed the office phones answering inquiries that evening.



*On the set of EWTN Live!*

Several invitations to present Virtual Pilgrimages and inquiries from Alaska to Connecticut were enthusiastically welcomed.

## YOUTH: Learning, Living and Loving the Message of Lourdes!

It was the heart's desire of one religious education teacher that began our youth program. One woman's inspiration to have her class of Confirmandi "meet Christ" in truly meaningful service to the sick at Lourdes was the humble beginning of our catechesis and volunteer service pilgrimage which could now be considered a future "Junior Hospitality."

Mrs. Julie Althoff considered the opportunity to join the corporal works of mercy with the pilgrimage experience as hands-on catechesis as the perfect introduction to adult Christian service. After a



Debut St. Philomena Youth Volunteers and Chaperones

series of little "miracles," the first group of 38 teen-aged youth volunteers and adult chaperones came together making our first volunteer youth pilgrimage the last week in June of 2003.

Almost 200 teens and adults

participated in the catechesis and service program during the debut and return season.

Many of the volunteers from the inaugural group returned to serve in 2004 and returned again this year as experienced volunteers for the third year.

Our motto was originally called *Learning and Living the Message of Lourdes*. However, a volunteer enthusiastically modified the program to include *Loving!* and we're pleased the name has stayed true. The conversions and life-changing experiences during youth pilgrimage have been so profound and long-lasting that despite many obstacles, the program continues to grow.

Looking toward the future, to respond to increasing requests, we hope to acquire a Youth Director. Please pray for our youth program.

## IRS Tax Deduction for Volunteers

A tax deduction may be made on U.S. IRS 1040 Schedule A for pilgrimages expenses made to volunteer at Lourdes. The taxpayer must meet the criteria of having made the trip for volunteer services. To be eligible, the majority of the time spent is required to be in volunteer activities. The Stagiaire service schedule fulfills the time guidelines for in-service requirements.

Any donations made to

sponsor volunteers or sick pilgrims to Lourdes are also tax-deductible as charitable contributions to us as a 501(c)3 apostolate. Any designated donation for a specific intention or sponsor of a particular individual can be matched at benefactor request.

Please contact your local tax advisor to verify that you are eligible to receive tax credit for volunteer service.

## Travel Tips Frequent Flier Miles

→ While traveling on our Air France pilgrimage flights, you earn valuable frequent flier miles with Delta Sky Miles, NorthWest World Perks and the newly merged Air France-KLM Flying Blue.

If you are not a member of any of these frequent flier programs, please contact us to receive an application from your preferred airline. You can also apply on-line by visiting the airline website

or through our website links page. Application can even be made on the day of travel.

All frequent flier mile rewards can be redeemed for future travel on any of the world-wide destinations offered by these SkyTeam partners. Flier miles can be donated to our apostolate for the travel of sick and special needs pilgrims, for meetings or to provide our Virtual Pilgrimages. →

## "...In the Footsteps of St. Bernadette"

Bernadette Soubirous did not become a saint because the Mother of God appeared to her in the Grotto in 1858. She found her sanctity in living her vocation everyday in humble holiness.

Working in the infirmary, she often dispensed little spiritual gems and jewels along with the pharmacy remedies.

Her insight into the ordinary means to meet God in our everyday path is what still makes Bernadette a good example for us today. In assisting a sister afflicted with sore hands and eyes, she soothed both her irritations of body and soul. Her helpful advice to "accept willingly" whatever God sends us continues to speak to us now in whatever

we are suffering or enjoying!

It is in St. Bernadette's example of willingness we can find a clear indicator of her very simple approach to holiness. We need not seek out God's will for us—but just simply offer a willing surrender to whatever God sends us.

*"Accept willingly what the Good Lord sends."*

## Our Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers Insignia



Official Apostolate Insignia

The teal, peachy-rose and gold colors of the insignia are those of the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the patroness of the Americas. The center V/M represents the Virgin Mary and the volunteers supported by the pillar of Mary. The three stars represent the Blessed Trinity and the volunteer

commitment to service in humility, simplicity and obedience. The suffering of the sick is united to the cross of Christ and supported by the Virgin Mary and the volunteers. The Papal keys symbolize the devotion to the Holy See and St. Peter. The fleur-de-lis represents the Immaculate Conception

at Lourdes and France. The echo of the water represents the spring of water reflected in the V of the Virgin and is also the Chinese symbol of three for the Blessed Trinity. The official name of the hospitality flanks the interior of the insignia. Look for this image on our materials, backpacks and water bottles!

## Guadalupe House: An American Oasis of Hospitality in Lourdes

The growing need for a place to welcome both volunteers and pilgrims, to hold meetings and conduct our apostolate business took the initial first step in the ownership of our own house in Lourdes.

Now named "Guadalupe House," this historic private home conveniently situated between St. Michael's Gate and the center of town was purchased April '04. Private loans were secured to buy the property and begin plans to remodel and furnish.

Guadalupe House will be the office and home-base for the apostolate in Lourdes. The increasing need to fax, phone, email and coordinate

with our Syracuse, New York North American office will be answered when the house is opened after renovation.

Coined "an American oasis of hospitality in Lourdes" the home will welcome groups of 16-24 volunteers, pilgrims and priests. After renovation, updates and furnishing, Guadalupe House will be the gathering place of North American volunteers.

More than a hostel, hotel or bed & breakfast, the house will be a true home offering the comforts and amenities of a secure private residence with a true family atmosphere. Shared kitchen privileges and the possibility



Guadalupe House Front Doors

of shared meals will provide an alternative to cafeteria meals. Fresh coffee and breakfast foods will be a welcomed option to those desiring a protein jump-start in the mornings.

Spacious bedrooms will offer accommodations up to four residents per room.

Varied room configurations will provide a comfortable welcome to all residents. A private room and bath are offered on the first floor for our priest or easier access for a pilgrim with special needs.

The detached garage will be converted into a studio apartment for the "host managers" or as a private priest residence/retreat. A patio garden entry will be gated to provide private outdoor dining for group gatherings and receptions.

To convert this house into a warm home of welcome, benefactors and volunteer helpers are needed. Please pray for the needs of Guadalupe House.

## WISH LIST

We are in need of items both large and small to help the apostolate... Please contact us if you would be interested to donate.

### SYRACUSE OFFICE:

Syracuse office volunteers  
label maker  
server for office computers  
benefactor for annual audit  
web design software  
digital camera  
LourdesLetter print sponsor  
grant writing assistance

### GUADALUPE HOUSE:

steel wool (for iron railings)  
volunteer gardening experts  
volunteer spring cleaners  
carpenters and painters  
French fax and computer  
household furnishings  
remodeling sponsorship  
paper & cleaning products

## 🔔 Volunteer Wedding Bells 🔔

Accueil Notre Dame North American Volunteer Group Leader Theresa Eversole was in volunteer service for her second year last April when she met a St. Joseph's volunteer, George Kearney. The volunteer long-distance couple were married December 28 in Lima, Ohio. They now reside happily in London, England. They will return to volunteer and give thanks to Our Lady of Lourdes this August and every year after!



Mr. and Mrs. Kearney