

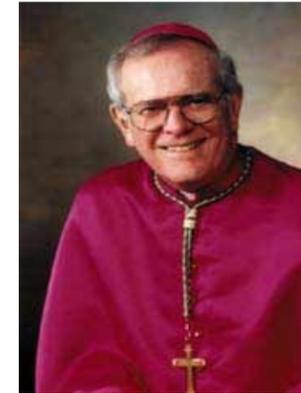


# Lourdes Letter

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

## Decree as Public Association of the Christian Faithful First-Ever American Lourdes Hospitality Erected Under Canon Law

The first Hospitality was founded in the Americas within the Syracuse Diocese in 2002 after the inaugural group of 10 volunteers served at Lourdes. Initially the new apostolate was created as a private association and remained such for 36 months. On June 10, 2005, a significant step forward was made when Most Reverend James M. Moynihan, Syracuse Diocese, elevated the apostolate by making a decree as a Public Association of the Christian Faithful under Canon Law.



Bishop James Moynihan

United States, Canada, Mexico and the Caribbean Islands. In response to the apostolate mission, hundreds of volunteers have now offered their service at Lourdes.

"Evangelization! This is a mission of charity and love, all about conversion," said Bishop James Moynihan who extends his blessings to all who serve this mission in the spirituality of St. Bernadette living the message of Lourdes.

*"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 humility, obedience and simplicity."*

It is unusual to make such a decree according to Chancellor Father Michael Minnehan. Establishing an association has been both an exciting and worthwhile spiritual endeavor.

Although centered in the Syracuse Diocese, volunteers join from throughout North America, including most of the

## Lourdes Vicar Regis De La Teysonniere Visits Syracuse and the World

En route to France from Japan in July, Father Regis De La Teysonniere, Vicar and Hospitality Chaplain of Lourdes, paid an impromptu visit to our Syracuse, NY headquarters. Père Regis was on a world-wide tour visiting Lourdes Grotto sites in preparation for his upcoming book celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Lourdes apparitions.

We felt honored and privileged to receive him as our guest and to introduce him

to the workings of our apostolate. Father Regis was welcomed by both staff and volunteers when we shared meals, Mass and visits to local Lourdes shrines. Father was introduced to our newly developed Virtual Pilgrimage as our way of spreading the Gospel Message of the Lourdes apparitions. His response was enthusiastic for our plan to spread the Lourdes message throughout America.

Father Regis shared an

inspiring story of his stay in South America. He was there for the Lourdes Feast Day celebration attended by 80,000 faithful honoring Our Lady and the apparitions. It was a real awakening to hear of the devotions around the world and an inspiration to consider similar feast day devotions in North America.

While here, Father was received by the Office of the Bishop. In all, the visit was a blessing for us and we hope for his return.

Père Regis De La Teysonniere has now returned to his home parish of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, France.



Père Regis De La Teysonniere and Retired Aux. Bishop Thomas Costello

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1  
WINTER 2005/2006

### Inside this issue:

In Volunteer Service	2
About Our Mailings to You	2
In the Footsteps of Bernadette	2
Travel Tips: About Passports	2
Retreat with Père Duguay	3
Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimages	3
Pilgrim Cachot Confirmation	3
2005/06 Winter Schedule	4
2006 Calendar	Special Insert

### Mass Intention Requests

Every pilgrimage begins with a Welcome Mass at Lourdes offered for all of our benefactors, sponsors and all requests made to us by phone and our website.

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



"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 MISSION:

To Comment, Request Copies, Inquire or Make a Donation:  
Phone: (315) 476-0026  
US Toll-Free 1-866-LOURDES  
[www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org)  
Visit us on the Web!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE PAID  
SYRACUSE, NY  
PERMIT NO. 4393

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

Lourdes Letter

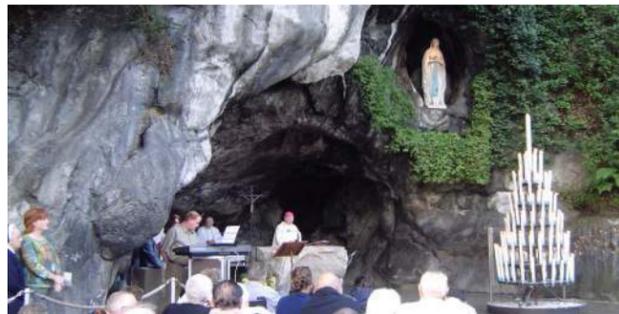


P. O. Box 3820, Syracuse, NY 13220 USA

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, LTD.

## 2005/2006 Virtual Pilgrimages

- OCT 1-2 Virtual Pilgrimage: Holy Spirit Church, Kansas City, MO  
3 Speaker: Kansas City, KS Women of Spirit Annual Meeting  
23-27 Speaker: Military Council Catholic Women, Ettal, Germany  
28-02 Virtual Pilgrimages: Omaha and Blair, NE
- NOV 9 Virtual Pilgrimage: St. Mary Assumption, Binghamton, NY  
11 Virtual Pilgrimage: St. Margaret Mary Church, St. Louis, MO  
12-14 Virtual Pilgrimage: Jefferson City and Herman, MO  
19-20 Virtual Pilgrimage: Guadalupe Shrine and La Crosse, WI
- DEC 3-4 Virtual Pilgrimage/Volunteer Invitation: Santa Rosa, CA
- JAN 6-8 St. Bernadette-Lourdes Père Duguay Retreat, Syracuse, NY  
14-15 Speaker: Marian Conference, St. Louis, MO  
26 Virtual Pilgrimage: Hatfield, PA (near Philadelphia)  
28-30 Virtual Pilgrimages: Dallas, Wylie and Greenville TX
- FEB 1-3 Virtual Pilgrimages: San Antonio, TX  
5 Virtual Pilgrimage: Conroe, TX  
17-26 Virtual Pilgrimages: USA Military Communities in Germany
- MAR 3 Virtual Pilgrimage & Youth Volunteer Invitation: Fort Irwin, CA  
4-5 Virtual Pilgrimages: Los Angeles, CA  
6 Virtual Pilgrimage: San Diego, CA  
12 Virtual Pilgrimage: Baldwinsville, NY  
19 Virtual Pilgrimages: Albany, NY  
23-26 Virtual Pilgrimage: Davenport and Des Moines, IA
- APR 1-2 Virtual Pilgrimages: New York City, NY



June 2005 Holy Mass in the Grotto

Dear Friends of Our Lady of Lourdes,

We at North American Volunteers are extremely grateful to Syracuse Bishop James Moynihan for his canonical approval and endorsement, for we subscribe to the axiom of the Lourdes officials that all graces come through the Church.

Every pilgrim comes to Lourdes not knowing quite what to expect. Invariably each person is moved spiritually and emotionally by the contagious and palpable faith of the pilgrims and by the Christ-like love of the volunteers serving the sick.

We invite you to share in the graces that flow at Lourdes.

Sincerely in Christ,

Fr. Jeffrey Keefe

Reverend Jeffrey Keefe, OFM Conv.

Spiritual Director

## VOLUNTEERS: Serving Our Lady and Her Pilgrims at Lourdes

In May, a group of mostly new volunteers came together to serve as individuals and became a North American Lourdes volunteer family. Of the 22 stagiaire (a volunteer in a stage of learning service), five were return volunteers.

An eclectic group traveling from California, the Midwest and throughout the US to New York, the volunteers quickly bonded into a service family. Friendships were forged and promises made to return together to serve again next May.

From the old age of 19 to the young age of 65, St. Isaac stagiaires quickly crossed all



2005 May St. Isaac Jogues Volunteers inside the Foyer Ave Maria

the barriers of home locale and state of life. College students and a professor, a married couple, two parent and adult child teams, friends, and an

intended seminarian all came together to share the fun, excitement and demands of the work of Hospitality.

Sharing the highlights of

new volunteer experiences was supported within the group by the experienced returning second and third year Piscine stagiaire volunteers.

These outstanding people proved to be the caliber of the next six groups to serve throughout the season. The same commitment for return service and friendships were forged throughout summer and into the fall.

Although volunteers did not come to Lourdes to meet life-long friends in service, this was the bonus blessing. As we say, we love it when Our Lady introduces us to her friends! ...is Our Lady calling you?

## About Our Newsletter and Materials

Thanks for your warm response to our first newsletter. We are hopeful that Lourdes Letter will prove the best way to connect and also be worthwhile reading! We intend to publish Lourdes Letter three times each year. Our general brochure is also intended to be an annual mailing. Volunteers and pilgrims will receive a series of letters and document mailings to facilitate the registration and pilgrimage travel processes.

In all, we will try to keep our mailings to a reasonable

amount of communication. We hope we found the right combination of contacts to keep you well informed. We appreciate your comments to let us know what you like.

Please be assured we do not share our mailing list. If, for any reason, you do not wish to continue to receive this publication, please let us know. Or, if you would like to send Lourdes Letter to a friend or family member, please call or email us. We appreciate your comments.

## Travel Tips Passport Particulars

→A valid passport is required for international travel. All passports must be valid for six months *after* the travel return date. This travel validity rule is now strictly enforced.

→It is critically important that international tickets be issued in the legal name of the traveler *exactly* as the name appears on the Passport. Once issued, there is a \$150 penalty for name corrections and changes to tickets.

→Visa requirements for

non-US/Canada citizens vary according to the country of issue. Please check with your nearest US Embassy three months in advance to assure that a visa can be obtained for travel to France. All visas are issued directly to the passport holder who must personally make their visa application.

→Air France requires us to retain passport copies to issue tickets. We appreciate your help to assist you.

## "In the Footsteps of St. Bernadette"

When St. Bernadette was asked if she ever missed her cherished Grotto, she replied she made a daily visit, that she made a pilgrimage in spirit. Just like Bernadette, we too can make a mini-pilgrimage.

We can take Bernadette's example to heart and make a prayerful 5 minute visit to the Grotto. Some of us may be helped to reflect on a photo, others can close their eyes to better visualize the Grotto.

St. Ignatius used the senses to meditate. We can use this practice to help us re-create the Grotto more realistically. We can recall our last visit or create a visit by smelling the scent of the river Gave air, the warmth of the sun, the prayer of the pilgrims, the beauty of the Mother of God in the niche of the rock... the luxury of the prayer of silence in the first three apparitions. We can better experience true silence

in our little pilgrimage, something we cannot always attain in the Grotto at Massabielle!

We are placing ourselves in the Grotto to meditate on the message Our Lady gave us... to pray, to do penance, to come in procession, to proceed toward God.

Set aside a few minutes today and greet Our Lady in the Grotto... reflect on the true experience of Lourdes.

## Père Duguay in Syracuse NY and Virtually Everywhere!



Père Duguay, C.J.M.

We are blessed to have Lourdes Sanctuary Chaplain Père Duguay join us this winter season to offer Retreats, Virtual Pilgrimages and to speak about Lourdes at conferences and in parishes.

A special retreat focused on the spirituality of St. Bernadette and Lourdes was offered on St. Bernadette's birthday weekend, January 6-8. The retreat was

held at Christ the King Retreat Center in Syracuse, New York, beginning Friday evening and concluding on Sunday. The retreat schedule included a series of three talks and a Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage. Over 50 people attended. We plan to offer a similar retreat next year.

Père Duguay was a recent guest speaker at the St. Louis Marian Conference. His talk

was well received and followed by an announcement that the 2008 Conference will be dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes in honor of the 150th anniversary.

Having Père Duguay in our offices and traveling with Virtual Pilgrimages each weekend is a blessing to everyone. We hope Father will return with us next fall at the end of the pilgrimage season at Lourdes.

## Virtual Pilgrimages: Bringing Lourdes to 'Pilgrims' "at home..."

As part of our mission to serve at Lourdes and *at home*, we have begun to offer Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimages.

Realizing that most people won't be able to travel to Lourdes, France, the essence of the experience of Lourdes has been created in a "guided tour" presentation using the benefits of modern computer projection and actual tangible Lourdes Sacramentals.

In a ninety-minute event, "pilgrims" can touch an actual piece of the Grotto rock, experience the baths by "washing of this water" brought directly from Lourdes and to participate in a mini-recreation of the Eucharistic Blessing and the Candlelight



Mother Angelica's Sisters "wash of the water" at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery

Processions. This spiritual event is a prayerful experience enhanced by the participation just as if at Lourdes.

Parishes, church groups, communities, nursing homes, hospitals, prisons, hospices and school/universities are

some of the pilgrim audiences scheduled to host pilgrimage to Lourdes without leaving home. Last winter, Mother Angelica's nuns enthusiastically made a pilgrimage to Lourdes behind the grill at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Alabama.

A listing of scheduled Virtual Pilgrimages appears on the back page. Check the cities for a location near you to attend. If a pilgrimage is not scheduled near you, please consider hosting a Virtual Pilgrimage in your community. Please contact our office for a guidebook of step-by-step instructions to bring Lourdes to your home area. There is no cost for a Virtual Pilgrimage, however, donations or some sponsorship to cover the travel expenses are welcome.

The "pilgrims" who have attended Virtual Pilgrimages describe the experience as the next best thing to being there—*just like really going to Lourdes!*

**TAX CREDIT: Volunteer Service Pilgrimage Expenses and Donations are Tax Deductible on IRS 1040 Schedule A.**

## Prayer andWish List

*We are in need of prayer & items both large and small to help us... Please contact our office if you would be interested to assist.*

### APOSTOLATE OFFICE:

youth program sponsor  
public relations coordinator  
benefactor for annual audit  
8.1 digital camera  
LourdesLetter print sponsor  
grant writing assistance

### GUADALUPE HOUSE:

French fax and computer  
volunteer gardening experts  
volunteer spring cleaners  
carpenters and painters  
room remodel sponsors  
220 French voltage tools

## Pilgrim Confirmation at the Cachot

While on pilgrimage with his mother and grandmother, Nicky Bell expressed his desire for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Bishop Perrier granted special permission through Chaplain Père Duguay; Father Tadeusz Rudnik officiated on May 19, 2005 in the Cachot at Holy Mass.

*Please pray for the repose of Nicky's soul.* ✨



Nicola Frederick Anthony Bell