



# 2015 Annual Summary

United States 501(c)3 Charity ♦ Non-Profit New York Incorporation

★ The First Lourdes Hospitality of the Americas ★

*To extend the invitation of the Immaculate Conception as given to Bernadette in the Grotto at Lourdes; to serve the sick and suffering at Lourdes and at home following the loving example of St. Bernadette in simplicity, humility and obedience.*



## Extending the Invitation

- ♦ Public Speaking
- ♦ Website and Publications
- ♦ Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimages
- ♦ Parish Missions and Retreats
- ♦ Pilgrimages to Lourdes, France

## Serving at Lourdes

- ♦ Annual Special Needs Pilgrimages
- ♦ Sanctuary Volunteer Pilgrimages
- ♦ Youth Catechesis-Service Program
- ♦ University Volunteer Pilgrimages
- ♦ Guided Sanctuary Visits

## Serving at Home

- ♦ Virtual Pilgrimage Experiences
- ♦ Message of Lourdes in Schools
- ♦ 17,049 bottles of Lourdes Water gifted at Virtual Pilgrimages and mailed upon request



*13 Years  
Serving  
at Lourdes,  
at home  
and beyond...*

## LIVING OUR MISSION WITH A PLENARY INDULGENCE BY APOSTOLIC DECREE

### "Virtual" Pilgrimages

An estimated 15,181 "pilgrims" experienced Lourdes in a series of 109 Virtual Pilgrimages at parishes, universities, parishes, schools and a maximum security prisons across 18 states and in 4 countries.

Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage provides a spiritual journey by a trained guide in a 40 to 90 minute interactive guided experience with Lourdes Water, the Grotto Rock, a Eucharistic Blessing and Candlelight Rosary Procession with a Papal Plenary Indulgence.

### Lourdes Pilgrimages

8 Volunteer Service Pilgrimages facilitated 107 individuals to serve the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes from 32 states and 3 countries.

Annual Youth Catechesis Pilgrimage directed 15 teens with 5 chaperones from 5 states to serve special needs pilgrims at Lourdes.

2 Special Needs Pilgrimages assisted 196 pilgrims from 20 states including sick and disabled, family members, medical volunteers, adult companions and caregivers with teens and university students volunteers.

### Media

The largest Catholic newspaper in America, *Our Sunday Visitor* named our founder, Marlene Watkins, as a 2015 Outstanding Catholic.

In the fall, CBS News "Man in Paris," producer David Turecama filmed a "Saints Among Us" feature in Paris and at St. Gildard Convent in Nevers with Lourdes Volunteers.

### Website and Social Media

Our [www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org) new website redesign was launched with an estimated 150,000 individual unique users since our 2002 debut.

## SHARING THE MESSAGE OF LOURDES THROUGH VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE



Catholic School-St. Louis, MO

The Gospel Message of Lourdes is “virtually” a “pilgrimage experience” brought to those who will likely not make a journey to France. Virtual Pilgrimage is a prayerful interactive spiritual journey with the opportunity to:

- \*learn the Message of Lourdes
- \*touch the Grotto Rock
- \*go to the spring of water
- \*receive a Eucharistic Blessing
- \*join a candlelight Rosary Procession
- \*with Sacramental Confession available

15,181 experienced Lourdes in 109 Virtual Pilgrimages in 2015, including a series across central Communist China.

Over 115,000 “pilgrims” experienced Virtual Pilgrimages in 38 states, on 13 Native American Nations and in 14 countries on 4 continents since beginning in 2004.



Parishioners in country parishes and cathedrals, children in grade and high schools, colleges and university students, hospice patients, cloistered nuns, and maximum security prisoners have experienced Virtual Pilgrimage.



The Plenary Indulgence granted by Pope Francis acknowledges the grace of Virtual Pilgrimage in the conversions and return to the Sacraments. The Indulgence is extraordinarily meaningful to prisoners who come to believe true forgiveness in Confession because of the papal indulgence.

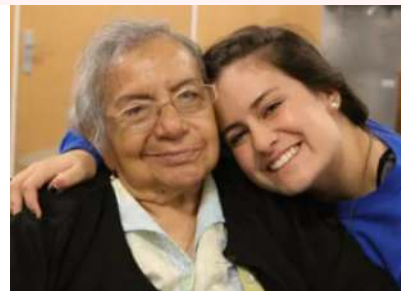
A candlelit Rosary procession, when possible, helps to recreate pilgrimage experience for “virtual pilgrims”.

A catechetical and evangelical mission that is sustained by grace, is supported by parish free-will offerings and our gracious donors and generous benefactors.



## LIVING THE MESSAGE OF LOURDES IN SERVICE AND ON PILGRIMAGE

In 2015, 107 volunteers offered one week of dedicated service with Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes. Volunteer groups from two universities and individuals from the United States, Canada and China served. 44 women served in the St. Jean de Baptiste Piscines (Baths). 41 men in the Service of St. Joseph lifted pilgrims on stretchers at the train station and at the airport, in the baths and at daily processions, while 22 women served in dining, housekeeping and embroidery at Accueil hospital-bed facilities and 3 formators teaching in Hospitalité Formation.



210 people, including 48 wheelchair-bound, seriously ill, disabled and walking wounded traveled from the U.S. and Uganda assisted by 12 caregivers and companions lovingly offered assistance in-flight and while in Lourdes.

63 Pilgrimage volunteers from the U.S., China and the FUS Gaming Austria campus offered selfless service providing dining, housekeeping and wheelchair assistance.

19 medical volunteers including nurses and physicians, offered medical supportive care. Volunteers pay their own pilgrimage expenses which can be tax-deductible on IRS Schedule 1040-A.

15 priests provided Sacraments and spiritual direction on special needs and volunteer pilgrimages. Each group was led and guided by an experienced leadership team comprised of 21 leaders in 2015.



20 youth and chaperones offered humble service to our Special Needs Pilgrims providing assistance to make the journey and the stay possible for the sick and disabled. Our catechesis and service program, Learning, Living & Loving Lourdes provided a life-changing experience for teens and chaperones.



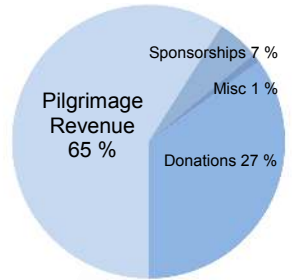
# SUSTAINING OUR EVANGELICAL MISSION

**Liability Insurance** is the umbrella policy purchased by the Association financially protecting against injury, misconduct, abuse, neglect, damage, or accident.

\*FINANCIAL INFORMATION UNAUDITED UNTIL 990 FILING  
2014 independent audited available upon request

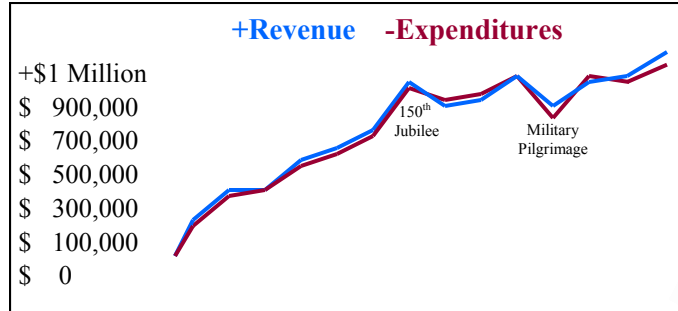
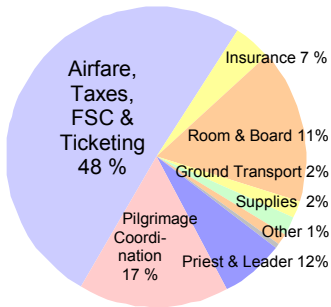
Volunteer pilgrimages and donations are tax-deductible on 1040 Schedule A. Please consult your tax advisor.

## REVENUE

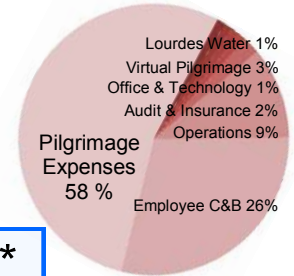


## PILGRIMAGE MONIES

Average Pilgrimage Cost Percentages



## EXPENSES



**93¢ OF EVERY DOLLAR SPENT ON PROGRAMS & SERVICES\***

In-house pilgrimage coordination eliminates travel agency and tour operator commissions.

Taxes and Fuel Surcharge (FSC) are ~\$667 in airport taxes and jet fuel surcharge imposed by the airlines to be collected in addition to ticket fare.

Medical and Travel Insurance is the \$97 to \$585 age-based policy coverage cost per each traveler for medical, travel and repatriation emergencies.

## 2015 SPONSORSHIPS

- 19 SPECIAL NEEDS - ANDREA'S WISH
- 10 PILGRIM-VOLUNTEERS - PRIVATE DONORS
- 31 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS - FUNDRAISING

## Purchase of Self-Sustaining "NEW" Lourdes Volunteers "Home Offices"



107 Michaels Avenue

After 10+ blessed years renting in the Franciscan Motherhouse complex, the sisters relocated to their new home better-suited to their aging religious. We were lovingly "evicted" by nuns!

Gracious benefactors valuing the fruits of our ministry wanted to assure we would continue our holy work. To make a self-sustaining office space, an individual donor gifted \$25,000 as a down-payment on a nearby two-family home. Another benefactor, moved by this gift, promised a triple-match to pay off our \$75,000 mortgage in 3 years. Another generous benefactor paid for most of the needed renovations. The tenant rent pay for the house taxes and office utilities.

In July, our office team was blessed to move in. Next year, an appeal will be made to raise the funds to rebuild the existing detached two-car garage for our Lourdes Water ministry.

## Lourdes Volunteers Members Granted Indulgences in 2015 by Pope Francis



In 2012, to honor the tenth anniversary of the founding of Lourdes Volunteers, Pope Benedict XVI proclaimed a Plenary Indulgence for one year to faithful who either experienced Lourdes through our Virtual Pilgrimage or made pilgrimage to Lourdes, France, with Lourdes Volunteers.

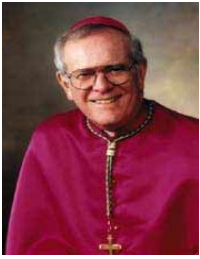
In 2013, Pope Francis then proclaimed a Plenary Indulgence, for the same experiences through 2020. This is the first time in the history of the Catholic Church an indulgence is granted for a "virtual experience" as equal to an actual experience. **Further, in 2015 Pope Francis proclaimed Indulgences to each Lourdes Volunteer** on our feast days and for every act of charity, mercy, penance or evangelization in our charism. We are blessed!



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis

# Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers: Church and State

## CATHOLIC CHURCH

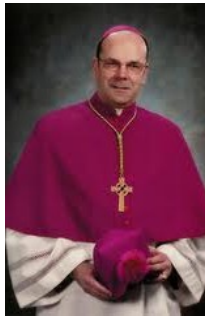


On June 10, 2005, Most Reverend James Moynihan erected Lourdes Volunteers a Public Association of the Christian Faithful under Title V Canon 312 §3 to devote itself to the initiatives of evangelization and charity through the Message of Lourdes.

## ECCLÉSIAL AUTHORITY

This Association is under the Ecclesial Authority of the Most Reverend Robert J. Cunningham, Bishop of Syracuse Diocese in upstate New York.

A priest chaplain is appointed by the Bishop to spiritually assist the association. Reverends Jeffrey Keefe, OFM, Conv., and Francis Menei provide spiritual direction and guidance to the directors, mem-



bers and chaplains.

## GOVERNANCE

The Association is governed according to the statutes approved by the Ecclesial Authority and the Board of Directors. The Statutes are in compliance with Church Canon Law as well as both state and federal regulations for charities.

## ADMINISTRATION

The Association is guided by a Board of Directors who are not compensated for their leadership services. The Association operations are directed by a volunteer uncompensated Founding Administrator, Mrs. Marlene Watkins, as appointed by the Bishop. Association activities and finances, including the annual audit, are reported each year to the Bishop.

## STATE AND FEDERAL STATUS

In 2003 the Association was incorporated in the state of New York and maintains a tax-exempt status as a 501(c)3 afforded the privileges and obligations of a charity filing an audit and IRS 990 report. As a non-profit, donations are tax deductible

within the legal allowable guidelines.

## HOSPITALITIES

The Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes is under the authority of the Bishop of Tarbes et Lourdes, Msgr. Nicolas Brouwet and is comprised of individual volunteers from around the world who volunteer at the Sanctuaries one week a year to welcome pilgrims.



## LOURDES VOLUNTEERS

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers is the first and only Lourdes hospitality of the Americas aggregated



by Bishop J. Perrier on December 17, 2006.

## AVE MARIA TRAVEL

A separately incorporated and audited

### *Ecclesial Authority:*

*Most Reverend Robert Cunningham  
Bishop of the Syracuse Diocese (NY)*

### 2015 Board of Directors

#### Chaplains:

Rev. Jeffrey Keefe, OFM, Conv., NY  
Fr. Francis Menei, Pennsylvania

#### Honorary Chairman of the Board

\*Col-Ret David Braden, Texas

#### President:

\*Marlene Watkins, New York

#### Vice President:

\*Frances Salaun, New York

#### Secretary:

\*Teresa Lewis, Florida

#### Treasurer:

Barry Vaughn, New York

Dan Crapia, Illinois

\*Marianne Fischer, Pennsylvania

\*Daniel Revetto, California

James Kernell, Esq., Kansas

Flint Sibayan, Maryland

Jan Sibayan, Maryland

\*Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes Member



## 2015 HIGHLIGHTS OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Pope Francis grants Indulgence to members and acts of service
- www.LourdesVolunteers.org website redesign launch
- Virtual Pilgrimage series across central Communist China
- July move into our new “home” office at 107 Michaels Avenue
- CBS filming at St. Gildard Convent in Nevers and in Paris
- LourdesLetter was printed and mailed to ~10,000 followers
- Our Founder Named a 2015 Outstanding Catholic by OSV

*Dear Lourdes Volunteer Family and Friends of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette,*

*Reflecting on this past year, we recall the thousands of people we had the privilege to meet at Virtual Pilgrimages and at Lourdes in service. It was not a faceless crowd that passed by our year, they were individual people—we met one soul at a time. We personally encountered each person, in a grace, who benefited from the life-changing evangelical mission of Lourdes Volunteers. Each one of our members and donors along with every person we met sharing the Message of Lourdes was a personal introduction made by Our Lady of Lourdes.*

*Through these treasured meetings in Catholic schools, in parishes, prisons, at conferences or in Lourdes, together we encountered Bernadette and the Blessed Mother bringing us to Christ Jesus. In that grace, we discovered, rekindled or deepened our faith, hope and love.*

*We are truly and genuinely thankful to each person who makes each of these soul-changing meetings possible: special needs pilgrims and “virtual” pilgrims, our dedicated staff and selfless volunteers, our generous donors and holy prayer partners—each one of you! Merci! Marlene*

Call us by phone:  
(315) 476-0026



Visit us on the internet:  
www.LourdesVolunteers.org