



# Lourdes Letter

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

## LOURDES MIRACLE #67 PROCLAIMED Anna Santaniello Announced as a Miracle Cure in Italy

The bells chimed at Lourdes for fifteen minutes one year ago November 9th when the miracle of Anna Santaniello was proclaimed. Archbishop Gerardo Pierro of Salerne, Italy officially recognized the miraculous cure after consideration of all medical documentation originally submitted after her healing 54 years ago.



Miracle Anna

Today Anna enjoys good health at 94 years of age. But, as a young child Anna had developed heart disease that caused breathlessness so severe she found it difficult to speak and was unable to walk. Suffering from severe asthma attacks, she was brought to Lourdes on a stretcher in August of 1952. After a visit to the baths on her stretcher, she left the Piscines without assistance

and participated that night in the Candlelight Rosary Procession.

After examination by pilgrimage physicians, an official report was made of her normal pulse, heart rate and new physical abilities. The following year Anna was examined by physicians at the Medical Bureau. She

again visited the Medical Bureau in 1960 and 1962. A new inquiry began to clarify the use of two differing wordings of the diagnosis. After another examination, the doctors decided to send her file to the International Medical Committee of Lourdes. In 1964 her case was deemed an inexplicable cure.

In October of 2004, the current Medical Director of the Lourdes Medical Bureau, Dr. Patrick Theillier, again raised the case. After a new cardiology report the Archbishop Pierro discerned the inexplicable cure to be an authentic miracle now fully recognized by the Catholic Church. Anna's long-term recovery into her 90s proved the cure to be long lasting and permanent.

## Père Patrick-Louis Desprez Visits Lourdes Volunteers In Syracuse, NY

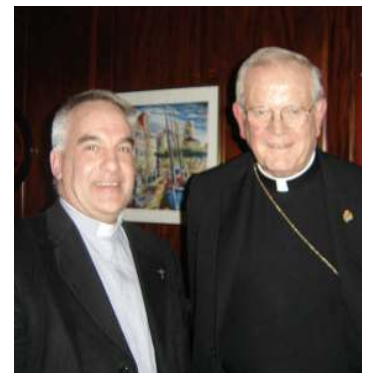
The Bishop of Lourdes asked the Aumônier Général de l'Hospitalité, or the Father General, to make a visit to every hospitality in the world. Père Patrick-Louis Desprez made an official visit to our Syracuse, New York offices as the first Hospitality of the Americas.

Father has responsibility for the over 8,000 volunteers from all over the world who come each year to Lourdes to

welcome seven million pilgrims arriving from every nation. He is in charge of the spiritual formation of every person in service at the Sanctuary. All volunteers are trained for their service at the baths, the train station or the kitchens by well experienced volunteers. However, the preparation and training of the spirituality of Bernadette and the Gospel Message of Lourdes is the foundation of all services

and is the primary role of the Father General of Hospitality.

Père Desprez was warmly welcomed in the Syracuse Diocese by Bishop James M. Moynihan and at a staff office reception including Auxiliary Bishop Thomas Costello, Franciscan Sister Superiors Grace Ann Dillenschneider and Patricia Burkard. Also included in his first visit to the United States was a Virtual Pilgrimage of Lourdes.



Père Patrick-Louis Desprez and Bishop James Moynihan

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2	
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<b>Inside this issue:</b>	
Special Needs Pilgrimage	2
Lourdes Magazine Feature	2
In the Footsteps of Bernadette	2
Travel Tips: Packing Lite	2
St. Bernadette Retreat	3
On a Mission for Lourdes	3
A Volunteer Family	3
2007 Feast Day Pilgrimage	4

*Prayer, Masses or Candles:*  
Please contact us to request a candle to be lit in the Grotto, to receive Lourdes water, or to offer your prayer intentions at our daily Masses in Lourdes or the Grotto.  
Call (315) 476-0026  
email 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:  
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Phone: (315) 476-0026  
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"the Newsletter for friends of St. Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes"



Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, LTD.  
P. O. Box 3820, Syracuse, NY 13220 USA

## Feast Day Pilgrimage 2007

In support of our mission to "extend the invitation of Mary..." a sponsored annual pilgrimage to the Grotto was designed to increase awareness of the Message of Lourdes and to honor Our Lady and St. Bernadette on the Feast Day:

*Lourdes Spiritual Pilgrimage*

*February 8-13*

*6 Days/5 Nights \$995.00\**

Pilgrimage Package: JFK departure of roundtrip airfare, ground transfers, Priest Pilgrimage Chaplain, Group Leader Escort, Insurance and Three-Star Hotel Stay with All Meals.

\*plus Taxes and Fuel Surcharge of \$195.00

All deposits are non refundable and all payments are

NON-REFUNDABLE after December 8, 2006.

Double occupancy. Major Credit Cards Accepted.

For a brochure, information or a reservation:

Please Call Kathleen at (315) 476-0026

[www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org)



The Grotto

Dear Friends of Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette,

Life is a pilgrimage! Each of us is on a spiritual journey here to find our way to Eternity with the God who made us. If we stay near the Mother of God, surely she will guide us along the way.

If we go to the Grotto in prayer—either in France or at home—we will be drawn in a mysterious way like Bernadette to reconciliation and the Real Presence; lights to illuminate the safe way for us.

We thank you for the privilege to serve Our Lady of Lourdes, her pilgrims and our fellow volunteers along your pilgrimage road.

In Christ and His Immaculate Mother,

*Marlene Watkins*

Mrs. Marlene Watkins

(Volunteer) Founding Executive Director



## St. Bernadette Special Needs Pilgrimage 2006

One incredible week of grace and blessings is the best and only way to describe our experience in Lourdes this October 8–14.

As can often happen, we met Christ in each other, serving one another in prayer and/or in care. Several volunteers came on this pilgrimage to help those with physical or special needs who might not otherwise have been able to experience Lourdes. And several pilgrims came to help those with spiritual needs who might not otherwise have been able to experience the graces available and intended for them.

Don't you just love it when Our Lady introduces us to her friends? We certainly do!



## Lourdes Magazine

The March-April 2006 issue of Lourdes Magazine is dedicated to all members of Hospitalities from around the world. Two pages feature an article about North American Lourdes Volunteers. The full two-page story includes two photos of groups who offered service in the fall of 2005 and some of their experiences. To request a copy of this issue or to subscribe to Lourdes magazine, call (315) 476-0026.



March-April Lourdes Magazine

## Travel Tips Packing Lite

→ New liquid restrictions now prohibit Lourdes water in carry-on luggage during flight. All water must be packed as check-in baggage.

→ Recent reductions limit the weight allowance for each piece of luggage to 50 pounds maximum. Air France strictly enforces new limits with stiff penalties for weight overage.

→ Pack all toiletry items together from home. It costs more to buy them in France.

→ New restrictions require all liquids, creams or gels to be brought in carry-on bags to be limited to trail size and contained in one quart-size plastic bag per traveler.

→ Include empty water bottles when packing to insure the space is available for Lourdes water to come home.

→ Roll instead of fold! Rolling clothes eliminates wrinkles and makes for an easier fit for extra space.

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

To live every minute with love is the road to holiness that Bernadette lived. Upon entering the Sisters of Charity at Nevers, Bernadette saw *Deus Caritas Est* engraved over the novitiate convent front entry doors—*God is Love!*

This was not merely an expression to Bernadette, but how her family lived their lives, even in difficult times of

trial and poverty. Spending time in the presence of the Mother of God, Bernadette experienced each moment "in loving" with Our Lady in the Grotto. From that special time with Our Lady forward, Bernadette did not want to waste a moment not loving—and neither should we.

We too, can practice the secret of Bernadette's path to

holiness by finding love in every minute, in each person and in every experience. This may seem impossible, but we can ask Bernadette to teach us to love Jesus as she did; to ask Our Lady to help us to love as she does.

Spend a few minutes each day spiritually at the Grotto in prayer to discover and encounter the secret.

## Annual St. Bernadette Retreat January 5-7, 2007 in Syracuse, NY



Fr. Régis-Marie de La Teyssonnière

Two authorities and true friends of St. Bernadette will be speakers for our annual Bernadette Birthday Retreat.

Père Régis-Marie de La Teyssonnière, a distinguished Chaplain of Honor of Lourdes and former Father General of Hospitality now travels the world sharing his insights of St. Bernadette.

Professor of French, Dr. Patricia McEachern, is the author of *A Holy Life*, the translated original writings of Bernadette allowing us to meet the saint of Lourdes through her own words.

For reservations or more information, please call Ellie at (315) 476-0026 or check our website for RETREAT.



Prof. Patricia McEachern, Ph.D.

## Experiencing Lourdes In Four-Night Parish Missions

A powerful opportunity to experience the Gospel Message of Lourdes is what four-night missions can offer parishes.

Père Régis-Marie de La Teyssonnière and Marlene Watkins co-hosted the first Lourdes Mission during the Lenten season this past April.

Sacred Heart Church in Mt. Holly, New Jersey, invited parishioners to make a nightly pilgrimage to Lourdes. The first night of the Mission began with a Virtual Pilgrimage to the Grotto. A spiritually guided tour of the Sanctuary with a focus on the message as told by the Mother of God to Bernadette in the Grotto offered insight of the timeless Gospel message intended for

each of us. Her message was as important then as it is for us today.

The second Mission Night was a prayerful experience of the Stations of the Cross and a catechesis of the spirituality of Bernadette Soubirous from a young age at the time of the apparitions through to her life of holiness as a religious sister at Nevers. Meditations and prayers of both forgiveness and reconciliation offered spiritual insights while walking "in the footsteps of St. Bernadette."

The third day of Mission was a healing Mass that invited everyone to renew baptismal promises with Lourdes water provided in fountains gracing the altar.

The Mission concluded the last evening with an outdoor Eucharistic Procession that began with a dedication of the new Adoration Chapel and processed into the parish church with Adoration and spiritual reflection.

The Parish Music Director provided accompaniment and each night the Sacrament of Reconciliation was available. Also, during the day, Virtual Pilgrimages were offered for parish school students and for religious instruction classes.

If you are interested to receive information about a Parish Mission or to schedule a Lenten Mission, please call or contact us on-line at Lourdes Volunteers.

## 2007 Schedule

Our new 2007 schedule is being mailed separately from our newsletter. You will be receiving an invitation letter and brochure of our increased schedule for next year.

Please check our website: [www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org) for updated information.

## Mailing List

Please call us with your suggestions for our newsletter.

If you would like to have a copy of our newsletter mailed to someone or you would no longer like to receive our newsletter or mailings, please contact us at (315) 476-0026.

## 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:

prayer for all of our needs  
frequent flier miles  
grant writing assistance  
Staples Gift Certificates  
website design services  
telephoto camera lenses  
laptop projector  
long-distance calling cards

### GUADALUPE HOUSE:

house ownership funding  
landscape design services  
woodwork refinishers  
renovation laborers and help  
home furnishings sponsors  
kitchen appliances benefactor  
French fax machine  
French voltage carpentry tools

## A Family of Lourdes Volunteers

Every member of the Braden family has served at Lourdes in some capacity either in the Piscines, in the service of St. Joseph's, as youth volunteers or as a youth pilgrimage chaperone. Col. (Ret.) David Braden also now serves on our Board of Directors.

The Braden family lives in Germany.



Steven, David, Paul, Majel Jo and Majel

Each Braden has a special love for service, St. Bernadette Soubirous and Our Lady of Lourdes!