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# Lourdes Letter

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

## THE OPENING OF THE 150TH JUBILEE AT LOURDES The Vatican Proclaims An Indulgence During the Jubilee Year



Opening the Jubilee Year at St. Michael's Gate

following the Jubilee Path. The 150<sup>th</sup> Jubilee will close on December 8, 2008.

Over 75,000 pilgrims were present on the 150th anniversary and feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, February 11, including over 1,000 priests. The processions and celebration were magnificent!

To honor the Jubilee, Bishop Perrier will visit the United States, his only scheduled visit to share the Message of Lourdes in 2008. Also announced is the intended visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Lourdes this fall.

Visit the Jubilee website for more information at:

[www.Lourdes2008.com](http://www.Lourdes2008.com)

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### 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 Holy Mass in the Jubilee Year.

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

Together, Cardinal Dias and Most Reverend Perrier unlocked Saint Michael's Gate on December 8, 2007 to officially open the year-long Jubilee honoring the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Bernadette Soubirous. Thousands of pilgrims and priests from around the world arrived

for the opening celebrations.

This will be a year of grace and of indulgences! To honor the anniversary, the Vatican announced that the Holy Father proclaimed a plenary indulgence for the faithful on pilgrimage to Lourdes, with the normal Sacramental conditions and the inclusion of prayerfully

## UNITALSI Vice President-Physician Visits Coast to Coast with Lourdes Volunteers

Dr. Marco Tampellini, a Turin University Hospital oncology practitioner, staff professor of medicine and a UNITALSI vice-president, visited both California and New York to share his vast expertise in the care and transport of the terminally ill and handicapped to Lourdes.

UNITALSI was founded in 1903 to accompany both ill and disabled pilgrims to the Grotto and is the largest

organization in Italy to bring both sick and handicapped pilgrims to Lourdes. Each year 100,000 pilgrims are welcomed at their 350 bed facility, Salus Infirmorum, an accueil designed to meet the special needs of sick and handicapped pilgrims.

Thousands of volunteers and medical professionals accompany and tenderly care for all pilgrims throughout their 2-3 day journey by

train and their 5 day stay in Lourdes.

Dr. Marco made several visits to share experiences. Meeting with the Order of Malta Western and Federal Associations, our NY office team and Medical Director, Dr. Michael Martinelli, to help pilgrimages and offer expert help and assistance.



Dr. Marco Tampellini



"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 example of St. Bernadette in loving simplicity, humility and obedience."

### OUR MISSION:

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

Visit us on the Web!

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Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, LTD.

## 2008 Pilgrimages

February 8-13	150th Jubilee Feast Day Pilgrimage
March 29-April 5	Franciscan University at Steubenville Volunteers
May 16-26	St. Isaac Jogues Volunteer Service—JFK
May 21-26	50 <sup>th</sup> International Military Pilgrimage—JFK & Dulles
23-June 2	Notre-Dame/St. Mary/Holy Cross Volunteer—ORD
May 25-June 3	St. Jean de Brebeuf Volunteer Service—Detroit
June 5-11	St. Francis de Sales Pilgrimage for Deaf—Dulles
June 13-22	St. Gertrude La Crosse Diocese Youth Service—MSP
June 21-28	St. Juan Diego US Military Youth Service—JFK
June 22-28	Blessed Marianne Special Needs Pilgrimage—JFK
June 28-July 7	St. John's University Volunteer Service—JFK
July 11-25	St. Charles Volunteer & Paris-Nevers—San Francisco
July 23-August 2	St. Marcellin AMHS Volunteer Service—JFK
August 23-Sep 2	St. Jean de Lalande Volunteer Service—JFK
August 30-Sep 11	Bl. Katerie Volunteer & Paris-Nevers—Miami
August 30-Sep 9	Bl. Katerie Volunteer Service—Houston
September 5-11	St. Chalres Lawanga Courage Pilgrimage—JFK
September 5-16	St. Antoine Volunteer Service—Chicago
September 5-17	St. Antoine Volunteer Service—Atlanta
October 11-18	Franciscan University at Steubenville Volunteers
October 12-18	St. Bernadette Special Needs Pilgrimage—JFK/Dulles
October 20-27	St. John-Marie Vianney Priest Retreat—JFK



The Rosary Basilica at Dusk in Lourdes

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

Last November, the Bishop of Lourdes, Most Reverend Jacques Perrier, announced the 2008 Jubilee at a press conference from the USCCB in Washington D.C. A few days later, on December 8, 2007, the Jubilee Year was formally opened in Lourdes, France.

This coming June, Bishop Perrier will be back for a one week US visit to share with us the grace of Lourdes and show us how to be Lourdes pilgrims. When we go to Lourdes as true pilgrims, we will then be able to bring back home what we lived in this holy place. When we return from Lourdes, it is to extend the invitation of Our Lady to others—to help them enter the Lourdes experience.

May this be in all our hearts for the 2008 Jubilee year!  
In Christ and His Immaculate Mother,

*Père Régis-Marie de La Teyssonnière*

P. Régis-Marie de La Teyssonnière, Pilgrimage Director

## Andrea's Wish



Andrea Bartolomeo

Our 2007 Saint Bernadette Pilgrimage became a family joined in prayer and forever united in the Grotto! Lasting familial bonds were formed between pilgrims, companions, caregivers, the medical team with pilgrimage leadership including the religious and priests, along with all who traveled together this last October to Lourdes. Among the pilgrimage family was one unique pilgrim who humbly showed us the true road to holiness with her example to "see Christ in everyone."

Andrea wrote a letter of her desire for "everybody to be able to go to Lourdes" upon her return home to New Jersey. It was her wish that everyone, especially those with special needs without family support or the financial means, be provided the opportunity for all the graces she received. Andrea also wished children to be accommodated with their families to the Grotto, as she

was so lovingly accompanied by her parents on Lourdes pilgrimage.

Andrea provided the real example to our Medical Advisory Board for special needs possibilities. As a result, Andrea was appointed the first non-medical Honorary Board Member. Andrea was named for her witness to the possibilities for critically ill, terminally ill and profoundly handicapped to make pilgrimage to Lourdes with prudent planning and expert medical preparation.

At Andrea's request, a fund was created to assist special needs pilgrims to Lourdes. In her memory, individuals and families will be able to fulfill her wish and make pilgrimage to Lourdes.

To read Andrea's Letter or to learn more about Andrea's Wish, visit our website or call (315) 476-0026.

## Stay Tuned for Lourdes!



Fe en Vivo Con Pepe Alonso" for the Feast Day and Fr. Benedict Groeschel featured Lourdes on his weekly live show calling us for on-site correspondence of the Feast Day festivities. Bishop Jacques Perrier is scheduled to be the guest of Fr. Pacwa on EWTN Live! June 11. For program scheduling about Lourdes visit: [www.EWTN.com](http://www.EWTN.com)

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## Travel Tips: Jags and Wallets

→ Personalized Luggage Tags are provided to each traveler for identification of all baggage and easier assistance to safely claim luggage upon arrival.

→ Wheelchair Tags are provided for each piece and part of the chair that may be dismantled during transfer and baggage claim.

→ Medical Equipment Tags are provided for each

piece of equipment carried on board or checked in.

→ Neck wallets are now provided to each traveler for easy access and safe keeping of airline tickets and passport during travel.

→ Printed ticket jackets with our travel itinerary and airline information are provided to each traveler in their neck wallet for easy reference during travel.

## "...In the Footsteps of Bernadette" with Père Régis-Marie

As the Blessed Virgin requested, Bernadette prayed for sinners throughout her lifetime. Bernadette not only prayed for sinners, but also offered all she had: Rosary meditations, the Stations of the Cross and her own sufferings for sinners.

During her religious life in Nevers, it was difficult for her to repeatedly meet with

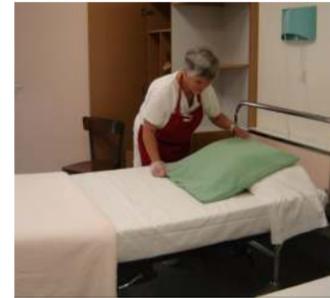
visitors waiting to hear her tell the story of the apparitions. It was painful, especially because of her poor health and the exhausting questioning. She dreaded entering the visiting room, but each time offered the sacrifice for sinners.

Bernadette always wanted everything she did to be for the salvation of others, for sinners, Bernadette offered not only

her sufferings, but herself. As St. Paul tells us, she was offering 'her body as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, her spiritual worship.' She also offered all the good blessings she received.

Let us follow Bernadette by accepting our difficulties, by offering our pain as our joys and by offering our life for sinners.

## Serving Our Lady and Her Pilgrims at Lourdes



Making the Bed for Christ

Volunteering at Lourdes is how we are most known. It's even said to be "written all over us" when we wear our North American Lourdes Volunteers shirts!

Over 500 volunteers have offered a week of dedicated service to Our Lady and her pilgrims since we

first began in 2003. Most volunteers return for annual service and many are in preparation to make a commitment in the Church to serve at Lourdes after five years of service.

Four different volunteer service opportunities are available to men and women

between 18 and 65 years of age. In all, we are serving Christ as Mary would!

If you are interested for more information about tax-deductible service at Lourdes or to sponsor a volunteer, please call our office for a brochure or visit our website.

## Pilgrimage Helpers: Medical and Lay Volunteers

Each pilgrimage, we travel to Lourdes as a family. Sometimes our family has special needs and capable family members lovingly meet all the care needs throughout travel and our pilgrimage time in Lourdes.

Companions are often family members or friends who join pilgrims to share the pilgrimage experience. Volunteer companions are sometimes recruited to be the family or friend to a special needs pilgrim to offer wheelchair or dining assistance, but more often,

genuine companionship.

Caregivers provide for all the personal care needs of a pilgrim needing assistance to bathe, toilet and dress. Caregivers can be recruited to assist family members or friends to care for special needs pilgrims.

Medical professionals offer expert experience in caring, not as practitioners, but as care experts who can assist maintenance medical needs and make urgent referrals.

Call us for information to be a family care helper.

## 2007 Annual Summary Available



Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, LTD. Available in French and Spanish

**2007 Annual Summary**

OUR MISSION: To extend the invitation of the Immaculate Conception to the sick and the suffering at Lourdes and at home, following the example of St. Bernadette, in loving simplicity, familiarity and reverence.

**Serving at Lourdes:**

- Volunteer Support Pilgrimage
- Youth Volunteer Service
- Annual Special Needs Pilgrimage
- Annual Summer Visit
- Scheduled Assistance at Lourdes

**Serving at Home:**

- Home Visitation Pilgrimage Visits
- Hospital Visitation Pilgrimage Visits
- Sick & Special Needs Home Visits
- Home Visitation Pilgrimage Visits
- Lourdes Information Assistance

**Extending the Invitation:**

- Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage
- French Missions and Retreats
- Pilgrimage to Lourdes France
- Workshops and Seminars
- Public Speaking and Presentations

**FULFILLING OUR MISSION:**

- Virtual Pilgrimages:** Thousands have experienced Lourdes via our virtual pilgrimages... (text continues)
- Pilgrimages:** (1) Volunteer Service Pilgrimage included 200 individuals in 2007... (text continues)
- Parish Missions:** Four night Lourdes Missions in Texas and New York... (text continues)

**Talks and Retreats:** Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimage... (text continues)

**Information:** "Lourdes is the heart of our mission... (text continues)"

Our 2007 Annual Summary is available and will be mailed to all of our volunteers, pilgrims, sponsors, donors, benefactors and associates.

This informative report is a concise snapshot of fulfilling our mission, services provided and our financial status for the year 2007.

## IRS Tax Deduction Reminder

Your paid invoice is your receipt for tax deduction as your qualifying proof of donation for volunteer service expenses.

## Youth Volunteer Service

Alexandra Le Strange arrived in Lourdes five years ago as a reluctant volunteer. Sent by her mom with her Godmother, she quickly came to love serving God in others. Since joining our very first youth pilgrimage in June 2003, Allie has returned each summer to mentor other young volunteers at Lourdes.

Allie visits nursing homes and groups volunteering to speak about the Message of Lourdes in Florida.



Allie Le Strange  
Speaker and  
Lourdes Volunteer