



Lourdes Letter

Founded July 16, 2002 *The newsletter for friends of the Immaculate Conception and St. Bernadette*

The Joy of Pilgrimage and Service in Lourdes



Living our mission, we bring people on oxygen or kidney dialysis, with infusion or feeding pumps, in manual or motorized wheelchairs and able-bodied in need of the grace of Lourdes. Our dedicated medical teams make this journey possible for those with special needs with the service of selfless youth, young-at-heart and young adult volunteers providing supportive care.

Assisting the disabled, chronically ill or discouraged to Lourdes from 50 United States, Canada and beyond is only one half of our volunteer service! Several times each year our volunteers also serve in the Sanctuary at Lourdes assisting people from around the world on their journey to the Grotto, the baths and in procession.

Thanks to our 5,000+ volunteers and the sick who entrusted themselves into our care!

Do Something
Amazing

YOU make ALL we do possible. We need YOU!

1. Please pray for us or offer penance for us.
2. Sponsor a special needs pilgrim to Lourdes.
3. Donate to help us continue this holy ministry.
4. Volunteer with us—service is life-changing!

FALL 2015
ISSUE NO. EIGHT

Inside:

Papal Plenary Indulgences	2
"Go Tell the Priests..."	2
Youth Catechesis & Service	2
Medical Conference 2016	2
100,000+ Virtual Pilgrimage	3
New Home Office	3
In the News: Watch & Listen	3
The LourdesMobile	4

Visit us on the Internet

To provide you easier and maximum access to information, we have updated our website:

www.LourdesVolunteers.org



"Love without measure..."

Accurate measurement can be the final difference between profit and loss to small businesses. For the Soubirous family in 19th century drought-stricken southern France, weights and measures must have been a defining factor in the loss of their small mill. Measurement surely must have been meaningful to any child living in a mill.

Years after the apparitions, while Bernadette was living as a religious sister in the motherhouse convent in Nevers, far away from her childhood as a poor miller's daughter, Bernadette said to "love without measure". This expression is so profound when taken in the context of her early life experiences as a poor girl and her family history of poverty and loss.

At Lourdes Volunteers, "love without measure" is our rule—and our holy ruler—our spiritual measure in all practical tasks that we do. "Love without measure" is not just our motto, it is the truly immeasurable tool we must use to live the Gospel Message of Lourdes in our charism, in our loving care for the sick, for each other and all we encounter.



St. Bernadette Soubirous

LOURDES VOLUNTEERS GRANTED INDULGENCES BY PAPAL DECREES



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 in grace to an actual experience. Further, this year Pope Francis issued indulgences to each Lourdes Volunteer on our feast days and every act of charity, mercy, penance or evangelization in our charism. We are blessed!



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis

“Go tell the priests to have people come here in procession...”



During the 13th apparition, March 2, 1858, Our Lady directed Bernadette to go tell the priests to build a chapel and to “go tell the priests to have people come here in procession.” This is why we make pilgrimage to the Grotto and journey to this holy place possible for the sick and those broken in body or spirit—some traveling alone and some with loved ones—each unable to comfortably or safely make the journey to France without the assistance and loving supportive medical care of a Lourdes Hospitality.

We bring people to Lourdes because Our Blessed Mother said to have us do so.

The Mother of God did not just request people come to Lourdes in procession, she said “tell the priests to have people come here.” She did not provide a reason. We are witness to life-changing conversions in Lourdes. Possibly this is why she directed priests to tell us?

We bring people with special needs and volunteers to Lourdes altogether 12 times each year from April thru October.

Youth Catechesis & Service “Learning, Living & Loving” the Message of Lourdes!

Joyful faces of service, fun and prayer at Lourdes!

To learn more about our Youth Catechesis with hands and feet of Christ service, contact Pam Ryan at (315) 476-0026 or email: Pam@LourdesVolunteers.org



Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes



After five years, each with one week of service and formation with the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes, a formal Commitment can be made at Mass with a lifetime promise to serve one week each year, whenever possible.

Following with three additional years offering of annual service and a pastoral recommendation, a Total Marian Consecration can be made at the Hospitalité Mass.

Six North American Lourdes Volunteers made their Consecration in October 2015.

Meet us in Miami

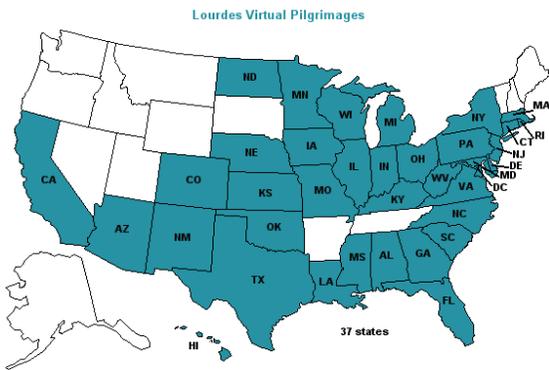
5th Annual Medical Leadership Conference - Miami, Florida

- ◆ Discover the joy of serving special needs at Lourdes
- ◆ Meet our experienced physicians, nurses and leaders
- ◆ Learn how we escort the seriously ill and disabled
- ◆ Explore the opportunity to offer volunteer service

SAVE THE DATE March 4 - 6, 2016

Info: (315) 476-0026 or www.lourdesvolunteers.org

Virtual Pilgrimage Across America-the-Bautiful and Around the World



Virtual Pilgrimages in 37 of the United States

A visually guided visit brings a Lourdes experience to life with Grotto Rocks, Lourdes Water, a Eucharistic Blessing and Rosary Candlelight Procession. More than 100,000 “pilgrims” have now experienced Lourdes through our Virtual Pilgrimages at parishes, schools and prisons in 37 states and 13 countries on 4 continents, 11 Native American Nations and across northern China in 2015.



13 Countries in 10 Years!

If you are interested to learn how to share the Message of Lourdes with your local community, call us at (315) 476-0026. There is no fee. Our Virtual Pilgrimage Coordinator will assist you to successfully host this holy event in your hometown!

Our “New” Lourdes Volunteers “Home Office” in Syracuse, New York

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

Generous benefactors who value the fruits of our ministry wanted us to be self-sustaining and continue our holy work in a place of our own. They made a generous down-payment on a nearby two-family house. Another benefactor, moved by this gift, promised a triple-match to pay off our mortgage in just 3 years! Yet another gracious benefactor paid for the renovations. Then, our city required further code upgrades for an occupancy permit. This July we were blessed to move in, thankful for this gift! *(Please pray for us to now recover our unexpected expenses!)*



Visit us at 107 Michaels Ave

Catholic Public Association of the Christian Faithful Membership

Lourdes Volunteers was founded in 2002 as an American Lourdes Hospitality with a mission to:

1. Share the Message of Lourdes fulfilled through Virtual Pilgrimage bringing the grace of Lourdes to parishes, schools, prisons and more with a Plenary Indulgence from Pope Francis.
2. Assist seriously ill and profoundly disabled to Lourdes with loving assistance, including medical supportive care, companionship and sponsorship.



3. Serve the Lourdes Sanctuary with the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes at the Piscines (Baths), both Accueil hospital-bed facilities and to assist at the train station, airport and Sanctuary ceremonies.

As a Catholic Public Association, members take an oath, receive a blessed insignia pin as a prayer or service member. Members receive an indulgence on our feast days by offering acts of charity, mercy, penance and evangelization in our charism.

💧 Need Lourdes Water? 💧

To request Lourdes Water directly from the spring:
(315) 476-0026 or water@lourdesvolunteers.org

Did you miss *Lourdes Letter* in your mailbox?



Support us to continue mailing this newsletter by sending a donation in the enclosed envelope.

Be sure to indicate your email and mailing preference and enclose your prayer petitions.

We are always praying for you in the Grotto at Lourdes!

IN THE NEWS: Watch and Listen

Our evangelical mission to “share the Message of Lourdes,” lives in our work with various forms of media to bring the grace of Lourdes to Catholic and secular viewing, listening and reading audiences. Find us and spread the Good News!



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

Tel: (315) 476-0026

Visit us on the Internet:
www.LourdesVolunteers.org



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

Lourdes Letter

The newsletter for friends of Our Lady and St. Bernadette

STAMP
here

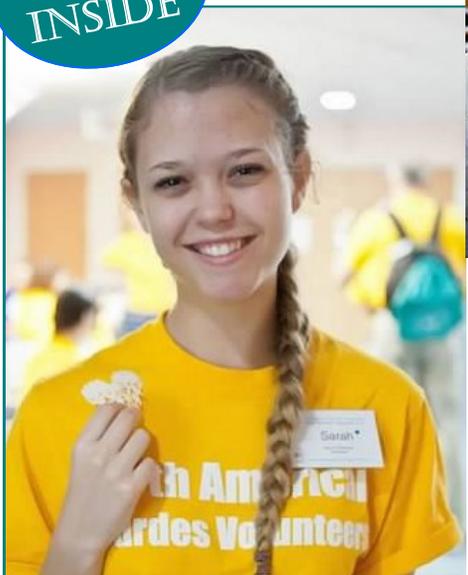
OUR MISSION:

“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.”



LOOK
INSIDE

See the faces of “Love-in-Action” at Lourdes Volunteers!



Please keep us within your
generous heart when giving!
94¢ of every dollar directly
funds our holy mission.

The LourdesMobile

Virtual Pilgrimage travels across America-the-Beautiful
bringing the grace of Lourdes to parishes, prisons and
schools. In 2015: NY, NJ, PA, MD, WV, VA, OH, WI,
MN, KS, MO, OK, TN, AL and FL. Find us near you
or invite us to you by calling Melissa at (315) 476-0026.



Help to gas up our tank to partner in evangelizing America thru the grace of Lourdes!