



# 2016 Annual Summary

## ★ 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
- ♦ 20,564 Bottles of Lourdes Water given at Virtual Pilgrimages and mailed upon request



*The Jubilee  
Year of Mercy  
Serving  
at Lourdes  
and at Home*

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

### “Virtual” Experiences

An estimated 16,412 “pilgrims” experienced Lourdes in 112 **Virtual Pilgrimage Experiences** at parishes, schools and universities across 19 of the **United States**, and in 5 **countries** on 4 **continents**.

Virtual Pilgrimage Experiences provide a spiritual journey with a trained guide in a 40 to 90 minute interactive prayerful experience with Lourdes Water, the Grotto Rock, a Eucharistic Blessing and Candlelight Rosary Procession offering attending faithful a Papal Plenary Indulgence.

### Lourdes Pilgrimages

5 **Volunteer Service Pilgrimages** facilitated 99 **individuals** to serve the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes from 23 **states** and 11 **countries**.

**Annual Youth Catechesis Pilgrimage** directed visits and service for 87 **teenagers** with **chaperones** from 7 **states** and 4 **countries**.

2 **Special Needs Pilgrimages** assisted 219 **pilgrims** from 31 **states** and 11 **countries** including sick and disabled, family members, medical volunteers, companions, caregivers and university student volunteers.

### Media and Events

EWTN, the worldwide Catholic network with 128 million viewers, featured our ministry in Spanish on the Nuestra Fe En Vivo show and in English on @ Home with Jim and Joy.

In March, “Meet Us In Miami” 5th Medical Volunteer Leadership Meeting hosted by Our Lady of Lourdes Church with 65 attending.

### Website and Social Media

[www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org)  
Since 2002, 165,000 individual users have visited with 122,985 page views from 15,465 unique users in 2016.

## VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE EXPERIENCE REACHES 39<sup>TH</sup> STATE AND 5<sup>TH</sup> CONTINENT



China

On four continents in five countries and 19 states of America, 16,412 “pilgrims” experienced Lourdes through 112 Virtual Pilgrimages.

A series of spectacular candlelit processions was hosted in China.

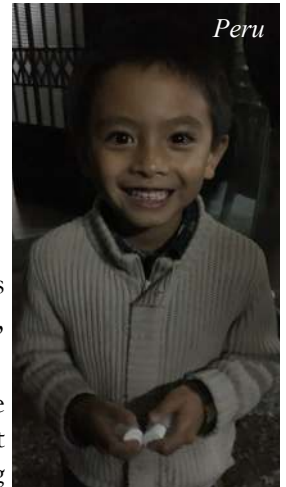
Lourdes on pilgrimage to France or a Virtual Pilgrimage Experience. The Gospel Message is “virtually” brought to those unlikely to make a journey to France. This prayerful interactive spiritual journey offers:

- \* a guided visual visit
- \* touch the Grotto Rock
- \* Lourdes Water
- \* Eucharistic Blessing
- \* Rosary Procession

Each person receives a bottle of undiluted, pure Lourdes Water.

A Lourdes experience is re-created by expert trained Guides using projected images and an interactive prayerful “virtually real” experience.

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



Peru

South America became the fifth continent to experience Lourdes through Virtual Pilgrimages in Peru in 2016.

More than 131,000 “pilgrims” experienced Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimages in 39 states, in 13 Native American Nations, 15 countries on 5 continents since the first series in Kansas City, Kansas, in 2004.

2,691 grade, middle and high school students attended 18 experiences in eight states in three countries in 2016.

Faithful meeting the norms are eligible for the Plenary Indulgence granted by Holy Father Francis through 2020 by either experiencing



Maryland, U.S.A.

## SPECIAL NEEDS PILGRIMS AND VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE

In 2016, 251 pilgrims, including 51 wheelchair-bound, seriously ill and disabled traveled from the United States, Peru, the Dutch West Indies and the Dominican Republic with 21 companions and caregivers who selflessly and lovingly offered assistance during flight and while in Lourdes.



59 Pilgrimage volunteers from the U.S.A. and Franciscan University of Steubenville Gaming Austria campus offered dedicated dining, housekeeping and wheelchair assistance.

30 medical volunteers, including nurses and physicians, offered Supportive Medical Care. All volunteers pay their own pilgrimage expenses or seek sponsors to cover their costs. Expenses and sponsorship donations are both tax-deductible.



16 priests and religious were spiritual directors on both special needs and volunteer pilgrimages. 32 leadership team members guided 12 pilgrimages.



99 volunteers offered one week of service with Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes. 51 women served in the St. Jean de Baptiste Piscines (Baths). 31 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 13 women served in dining and housekeeping at Accueil hospital-bed facilities and 4 formators teaching in Hospitalité Formation.

87 youth and adult chaperones experienced Lourdes with 42 offering service to Special Needs Pilgrims providing assistance to make the journey and the stay possible for the sick and disabled.

Our youth catechesis and service Learning, Living & Loving Lourdes program provided a life-changing experience for teenagers and their chaperones, including 5 families of parents with teen volunteers.



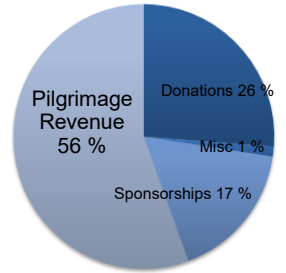
# SUSTAINING OUR EVANGELICAL MISSION

**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\*  
2015 independent audited available upon request

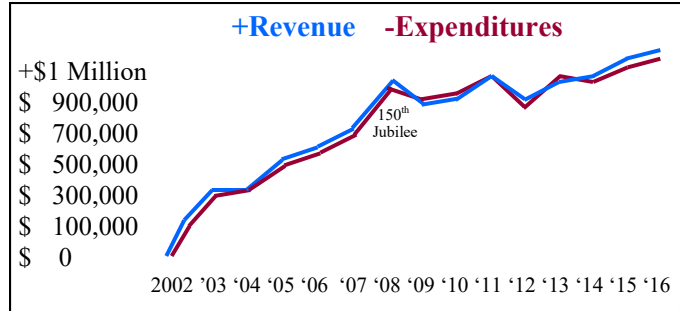
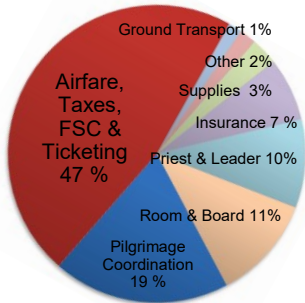
Volunteer pilgrimages and donations are tax-deductible on 1040 Schedule A. Please consult your tax advisor.

## REVENUE

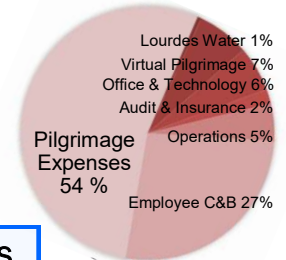


## PILGRIMAGE MONIES

Average Pilgrimage Cost Percentages



## EXPENSES



**\*91¢ 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.

## 2016 SPONSORSHIPS

- 39 SPECIAL NEEDS - ANDREA'S WISH
- 13 PILGRIM-VOLUNTEERS - PRIVATE DONORS
- 36 YOUNG VOLUNTEERS - FUNDRAISING

# SPANISH LANGUAGE PILGRIMAGES AND VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGES



The increasing need for programs and services to serve Spanish-speaking Americans and Spanish-speaking countries has led to training bilingual Pilgrimage Leaders and Virtual Pilgrimage Guides. Miami departures to Lourdes were added to both the June and October Special Needs Pilgrimages and June, September and October Volunteer Pilgrimages. In July, Spanish dedicated Virtual Pilgrimage Guides Charo and Edwin Rojas offered Virtual Pilgrimage Experiences in Peru. Appearing on EWTN Nuestra Fe En Vivo to 128 million viewers worldwide, Lourdes-in-Spanish was proclaimed in 2016. Fluent in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, they will travel extensively to share the Message of Lourdes.

# \$114,823 IN ANDREA'S WISH FUNDS TO SPECIAL NEEDS PILGRIMS IN 2016

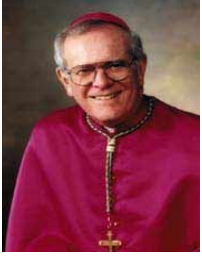


Returning from Lourdes in 2007, Andrea Bartolomeo wrote her passionate wish to family and friends that anyone who needed or would benefit from Lourdes should be able to go to receive the graces she found in the Grotto on pilgrimage. An outpouring of \$26,000 to honor her wish and memory, a fund was created to sponsor "anyone who needs to go to Lourdes." This fund is emptied each year and replenished in faith every year to sponsor pilgrims to Lourdes. This year, Andrea's Wish helped 39 Special Needs Pilgrims to the Grotto to pray, to seek healing and to find peace.



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

## CATHOLIC PUBLIC ASSOCIATION



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.

## ECCLESIAL AUTHORITY

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

A priest chaplain is approved by the local Bishop to spiritually assist the association.

Father Francis Menei provides guidance and spiritual direction to the directors, members and the priest chaplains on pilgrimages.



## ASSOCIATION 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.

## ASSOCIATION 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.

## LOURDES AFFILIATION

Both the Sanctuary of Lourdes and the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes is under the authority of the Bishop of Tarbes et Lourdes, Msgr. Nicolas Brouwet. 240 Lourdes hospitalities are aggregated to Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes. Serving the Sanctuary with the Hospitalité and bringing the sick to Lourdes, Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, became the first Hospitality of the Americas aggregated to Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes by then-Bishop, Msgr. Perrier, on December 17, 2006.



## FRENCH STATUS

On February 15, 2016, an Association was created in France in a declaration as Hospitalité North American Volunteers of Notre Dame de Lourdes. This French Association is non-lucrative (non-profit) affiliated association allowing for the sick and volunteers to be welcomed in France.

### *Ecclesial Authority:*

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

### 2016 Board of Directors

#### Chaplains:

Rev. Jeffrey Keefe, OFM. Conv. †  
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:

James Kernell, Esq., Kansas

#### Treasurer:

Barry Vaughn, New York

#### Executive Director:

Erika Vincent, New York

\*Teresa Lewis, Wisconsin

\*Deacon Dan Revetto, California

Flint Sibayan, Maryland

Jan Sibayan, Maryland

\*Charo Rojas, Florida

\*Edwin Rojas, Florida

\*Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes Member



## 2016 BLESSINGS AND GRACES

- First Volunteer Mission in Communist China
- First South American Virtual Pilgrimages in Peru
- First Appearance on EWTN Spanish Programing
- Fr. Menei Seminarian Sponsorship Fund founded
- New LourdesMobile launched across the United States
- Our Sunday Visitor \$20,000 School Catechesis Grant Award
- \$116,993 sponsorship donations received into Andrea's Wish

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

*Since our founding as the first non-European Lourdes Hospitality and first of the Americas, we have been immeasurably blessed with the gifts, talents and treasures of many with faithful international friends teaching us how to serve in France, selfless lay and medical volunteers to bring the sick to Lourdes, courageous capable directors to lead us and holy priests to guide us. With a dedicated staff and gracious donors who believe in our soul-saving mission, in God's grace, we have grown to learn, love, live and share the Message of Lourdes on five continents.*

*After more than a decade of expert leadership, our Chairman of the Board David Braden and our Spiritual Director Franciscan Friar Fr. Jeffrey Keefe were both called to serve us from "the other world." They leave us enriched by their devotion. We thank Our Lady of Lourdes for choosing them. They are deeply missed. Within this loss, in grace, we are filled with love. We witnessed holy life and holy death as examples to better help those we serve in Lourdes. We can only be grateful. Please know we pray for you in the Grotto, at Mass and Adoration.*

*Wishing you a blessed 2017, united in prayer, Marlene and the Board of Directors*

Call us by phone:  
(315) 476-0026



Visit us on the internet:  
[www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org)