



# 2012 Annual Summary

★ Celebrating Our Founding 10th Anniversary July 16, 2002 ★

*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
- ♦ Sanctuaries Volunteer Pilgrimages
- ♦ Youth Volunteer Pilgrimages
- ♦ Guided Sanctuaries Tours
- ♦ Individual Assistance at Lourdes

## Serving at Home

- ♦ Virtual Pilgrimage Experiences
- ♦ Message of Lourdes in Schools
- ♦ Lourdes Water Distribution
- ♦ Special Needs Home Visits
- ♦ Lourdes Information Assistance



*Honoring  
10 Years  
Serving  
at Lourdes  
and at home...*

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

### "Virtual" Pilgrimages

Over 17,245 "pilgrims" experienced Lourdes in over 73 Virtual Pilgrimage series at parishes, schools, universities, military communities, youth groups, organizations and prisons in 19 continental states across America from California to Massachusetts and at U.S. Military communities in Germany and Sicily as well as the Franciscan University campus in Austria.

Virtual Pilgrimage provides a spiritual journey to Lourdes in an interactive guided experience of 40 to 90 minutes with Lourdes Water, the Grotto Rock, an Eucharistic Blessing and the Rosary.

### Lourdes Pilgrimages

*8 Volunteer Service Pilgrimages* facilitated 109 individuals to serve the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes.

*Annual Youth Catechesis Pilgrimage* directed 43 teens with chaperones to serve special needs pilgrims at Lourdes.

*4 Special Needs Pilgrimages* assisted 284 pilgrims including ill, handicapped, family members, medical volunteers and caregivers including United States Military Wounded, Veterans, Retired and Active Duty service members, Hawaiian Kalaupapa residents and two annual June and October special needs pilgrimages.

### Media

On Easter, the Message of Lourdes was aired to 10 million American viewers on CBS Sunday Morning with a feature story about Lourdes Volunteers. Speakers shared the experience of Lourdes to tens of thousands on national radio shows, to organizations and at parishes, universities and schools.

### Internet

"Lourdes On Your Own" packets of useful information were mailed free to assist individuals on private pilgrimage.

Over 38,500 individual new users visited our website this year.

## SHARING THE MESSAGE OF LOURDES THROUGH VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE



Over 20,000 “pilgrims” experienced Lourdes through Virtual Pilgrimages in 2012. Thousands of school children and parishioners including U. S. Military service member and families, university and college students, hospice patients, nursing home residents, prisoners, religious, conference attendees and individuals in 20 states, four countries and Native American nations experienced Lourdes and received the Plenary Indulgence granted by Papal Decree in honor of the tenth anniversary founding of North American Lourdes Volunteers.



Reaching “pilgrims” across America and around the world, 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 event creating the experience of Lourdes at home from the comfort of the parish pew or the school auditorium offering 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



Each “pilgrim” receives the gift of a small bottle of Lourdes Water, just like France. Learning the story of Lourdes and the appa-

ritions through the spirituality of humble Bernadette, the experience becomes “virtually” real.



Hosted by a parish with the support of the priest or pastor and the permission of the local ordinary, a series of Virtual Pilgrimages are coordinated around the surrounded area of the host parish. This also brings Lourdes to impoverished parishes and reaches other areas and “pilgrims” other-

wise would not attend.

In 2012, Virtual Pilgrimages were offered in the first Black American parish, in the oldest Lourdes parish in United States, at a Maronite Shrine, in youth detention centers, maximum security and federal prisons, to Ugandan nationals and to a non-Catholic parish community.

This evangelical program is sustained by grace and supported by the parish free-will offerings, gracious donors and generous benefactors.

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

**109 volunteers** offered one week of dedicated service with the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes in 2012. Volunteers from two universities and individuals from throughout North America, including the two largest Archdioceses in the world: US Military (land mass) and Los Angeles (population) as well as from Haiti, the Philippines, Trinidad and Europe came to serve.



**58 women** offered one week of service assisting in the Piscines (Baths), the St. Jean de Baptiste. **35 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 **14 women** served in dining, housekeeping and embroidery at

both Accueils, with three volunteers teaching in Formation.

**43 youth and chaperones** offered humble service to American special needs pilgrims providing assistance to make the journey and stay possible for the sick and handicapped. Learning, Living & Loving Lourdes made a life-changing experience for teens, chaperones and pilgrims.



**241 pilgrims** traveled from across the United States and Armed Forces Europe including **98 pilgrimage volunteers** who offered selfless service preparing for the arrival of the special needs pilgrims and providing housekeeping, dining and wheelchair assistance; also caregivers and companions who accompanied special needs pilgrims in flight and throughout stay in Lourdes; **29 medical volunteers** including physicians, practitioners, nurses and physical therapists.

**50 special needs pilgrims** including the wheelchair-bound, profoundly handicapped, individuals, terminally and seriously ill traveled to Lourdes with **5 children** assisted by personal and medical supportive care volunteers, chaplains and leaders.

**10 priests** provided our spiritual direction and **3 religious sisters** were a spiritual presence. Each pilgrimage was directed by an experienced leadership team.

All medical and lay volunteers offered service while paying their own costs for pilgrimage which can be a tax deduction on 2040 Schedule A. However, the graces and personal reward for service are beyond credit!





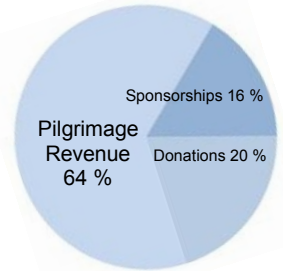
# SUSTAINING OUR EVANGELICAL MISSION

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

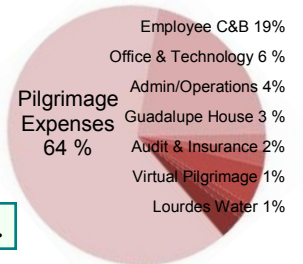
INDEPENDENTLY AUDITED FINANCIAL INFORMATION.  
2011 audit available upon request to our office.

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

## REVENUE

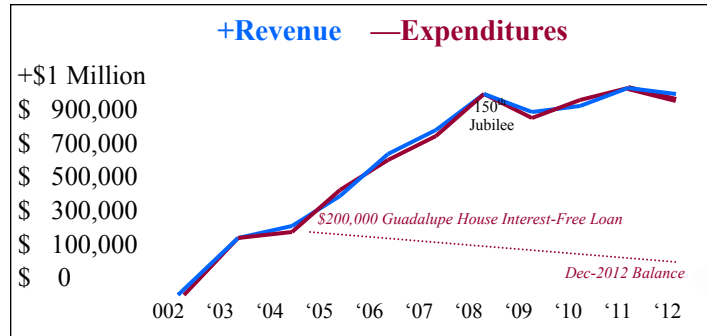
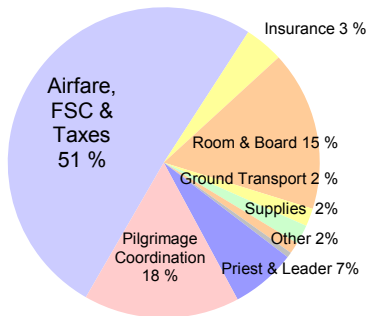


## EXPENSES



## PILGRIMAGE MONIES

Average Pilgrimage Cost Percentages



**92¢ OF TOTAL EXPENSES WERE SPENT ON PROGRAMS & SERVICES.**

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

Taxes and Fuel Surcharge (FSC) are ~\$680 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 ~\$100+ policy coverage included for each individual pilgrim and volunteer for medical or travel emergencies.

## 2012 SPONSORSHIPS

- 42 SPECIAL NEEDS - ANDREA'S WISH
- 9 PILGRIM-VOLUNTEERS - PRIVATE DONORS
- 36 YOUTH VOLUNTEERS - PARISH FUNDED

# 10TH ANNIVERSARY FOUNDING PLENARY INDULGENCE



By Papal Decree, to honor the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary founding of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, a Plenary Indulgence is granted to faithful who make pilgrimage to Lourdes or who experience a Virtual Pilgrimage with Lourdes Volunteers between July 16, 2012 and July 15, 2013.

“An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven.” (CCC 1471)

Both full or partial indulgences can be granted. Indulgences have a specific act as well as norms or

conditions that must be performed to acquire the either full or partial indulgences. The conditions specifically for this indulgence, considered norm, are:

- \* A Sacramental Confession with a priest;
- \* Reception of the Holy Eucharist;
- \* Prayers for the Intentions of the Pope (*Our Father, Hail Mary and Gloria*)
- \* A heart and mind free from attachment to sin.

It is recommended that these conditions be met on the same day or same time of the act. However, these conditions can be met within a reasonable amount of time, usually 8 days before or after.

# CBS SUNDAY MORNING LOURDES VOLUNTEERS FEATURE

On Easter, CBS Sunday Morning aired a seven minute feature about the story of Lourdes Volunteers, the selfless volunteers who serve at Lourdes and the handicapped or sick they care for at the Lourdes Sanctuaries.

Focused on the Message of Lourdes, the history of the apparitions and St. Bernadette, the special aired to 10 million secular viewers and remains the most forwarded referral on

their widely viewed daily news website.

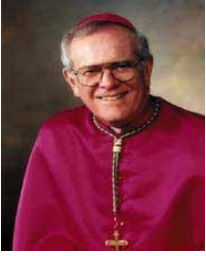
CBS producer David Turecamo joined two Lourdes Volunteers pilgrimages to film volunteer and special needs pilgrims.

Following the broadcast, over 20,000 hits were made to the Lourdes Volunteers website. The feature is currently accessible from both the [www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://www.LourdesVolunteers.org) and [CBSnews.com](http://CBSnews.com) websites.



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

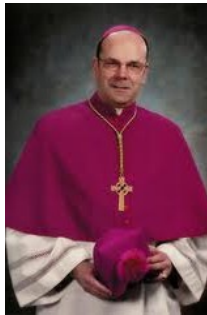
## CATHOLIC CHURCH



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.

## ECCLESIAL AUTHORITY

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



A priest chaplain is appointed by the Bishop to spiritually assist the association. Reverend Jeffrey Keefe, OFM, Conv. provides spiritual direction and guidance to the directors, members 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 individuals 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 wholly-owned not-for-profit subsidiary negotiating group airline contracts and travel/medical insurance.

### *Ecclesial Authority:*

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

### *Board of Directors*

#### *Chaplain:*

Rev. Jeffrey Keefe, OFM, Conv.

#### *Honorary Chairman of the Board*

Col (Ret) David Braden \*Stagiaire 2003

#### *President:*

Marlene Watkins \*Hospitalière 2006

#### *Vice President:*

Barry Vaughn

#### *Secretary:*

Frances Salaun \*Hospitalière 2011

#### *Treasurer:*

Daniel Crapia, MBA

Theresa Stiner \*Hospitalière 2006

Teresa Lewis \*Stagiaire 2006

Marianne Fischer

*\*Member of the Hospitalité  
Notre-Dame de Lourdes*



## 2012: FIRST AMERICAN LOURDES HOSPITALITY 10TH YEAR

- Papal Decree Plenary Indulgence to honor 10th Anniversary
- Papal Blessing of Virtual Pilgrimage, Service and Insignia Pins
- CBS Sunday Morning Lourdes Volunteers Easter feature
- St. Marianne Canonization Pilgrimage for Volunteers
- Special Needs Pilgrimage for Kalaupapa Hawaiian Residents
- First Virtual Pilgrimage offered to a non-Catholic community
- Appreciated Securities Account opened to receive stock gifts

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

*Concluding these past ten years as the first and only Lourdes Hospitality of the Americas, we are deeply humbled and extraordinarily grateful for each person who made it possible for us to share the grace of Lourdes with so many. Assisted by our selfless volunteers, gracious donors, dedicated staff and faithful prayer partners, pilgrimage to Lourdes and "Virtual Pilgrimage" experiences touched the lives of hundreds and thousands of precious souls in 2012 and tens of thousands of people over the past decade.*

*Honored with a Plenary Indulgence and Papal blessing of our worthwhile mission, in the Year of Faith we will launch our continued commitment to spread authentic Marian devotion and to live our mission honoring the holy dignity of each person at Lourdes and at home.*

*Following Bernadette, we can encounter the Mother of God in the Grotto and discover or deepen a love for Christ in each other. We will be profoundly changed forever to eternity.*

*Thank you for the continued privilege to share in this grace! The Board of Directors*

### *Founding Bishop:*

Most Reverend James Moynihan

Contact us: by phone:

Phone: (315) 476-0026



Friend us on  
Facebook

Visit us on the internet:

www.LourdesVolunteers.org