



2014 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

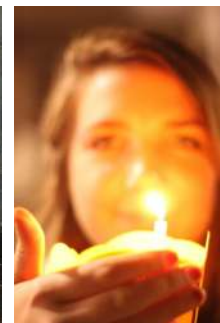
- ♦ Public Speaking
- ♦ Website and Publications
- ♦ Virtual Lourdes Pilgrimages
- ♦ Parish Missions and Retreats
- ♦ Pilgrimages to Lourdes, France

Serving at Lourdes

- ♦ Annual Special Needs Pilgrimages
- ♦ Sanctuaries Volunteer Pilgrimages
- ♦ Youth Volunteer Pilgrimages
- ♦ Guided Sanctuaries Tours
- ♦ Individual Assistance at Lourdes

Serving at Home

- ♦ Virtual Pilgrimage Experiences
- ♦ Message of Lourdes in Schools
- ♦ 22,000 bottles of Lourdes Water gifted at Virtual Pilgrimages and mailed upon request



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

LIVING OUR MISSION WITH A PLENARY INDULGENCE BY APOSTOLIC DECREE

"Virtual" Pilgrimages

An estimated 20,325 "pilgrims" experienced Lourdes in a series of 101 Virtual Pilgrimages at universities, parishes, schools, military communities, youth groups, organizations and maximum security prisons in 17 states and in 3 countries including Franciscan University in Austria and in the Kasana Luweero Diocese in Uganda.

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

Lourdes Pilgrimages

9 Volunteer Service Pilgrimages facilitated 108 individuals to serve the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes.

Annual Youth Catechesis Pilgrimage directed 18 teens with chaperones to serve special needs pilgrims at Lourdes.

3 Special Needs Pilgrimages assisted 178 pilgrims including sick and disabled, family members, medical volunteers, caregivers and youth traveling to Lourdes in April for our Easter Week Pilgrimage this spring in addition to the annual June and October Special Needs Pilgrimages with youth and young adult volunteers.

Media

The PBS documentary filmed in 2013 of our Military Special Needs Pilgrimage (founded in 2008) aired on December 16 to an estimated viewing audience of 6 million in the United States and increased viewership expected in the United Kingdom on BBC.

Website and Social Media

Over 135,000 individual unique users visited www.LourdesVolunteers.org since our launch debut in 2002 and over 1,000+ likes to our new fb page helped us to launch on Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest this year. A new website was designed for launch in early 2015.

SHARING THE MESSAGE OF LOURDES THROUGH VIRTUAL PILGRIMAGE

More than 100,000 “pilgrims” have experienced Lourdes through Virtual Pilgrimages since the first Virtual Pilgrimage in Kansas City in the fall of 2004.



Tens of thousands of parishioners, grade and high school children, college and university students, hospice patients, nursing home residents, cloistered nuns, prisoners, conference attendees and individuals experienced Lourdes in **37 states, 11 Native American Nations and 12 countries on 4 continents.**



Joining a Rosary candlelit procession recreates pilgrimage with the Eucharistic Blessing. Learning the Apparitions and Message of Lourdes, each “pilgrim” then receives the gift of a bottle of Lourdes Water, just as in Lourdes, France.



The second Plenary Indulgence granted by Apostolic Decree again recognizes the grace of Virtual Pilgrimage through Lourdes Volunteers of conversions and a return to the Sacraments and the Church.

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 journey creating a visit to Lourdes from the parish pew or school desk or correctional institution with the opportunity to:

- *learn the Message of Lourdes
- *go to the spring of water
- *join a candlelight Rosary Procession
- *touch the Grotto Rock
- *receive a Eucharistic Blessing
- *access Sacramental Confession

In 2014, **101 Virtual Pilgrimages** were offered to **20,325 “pilgrims”** in **17 states, three states for the first time, 3 countries,** including Uganda, Africa, also in medium and maximum security facilities and **two Super-Max prisons.**



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

LIVING THE MESSAGE OF LOURDES IN SERVICE AND ON PILGRIMAGE

108 volunteers offered one week of dedicated service with the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes in 2014. Volunteer groups from two universities and individuals from throughout North America served. **47** have made a life-time commitment to serve one week each year to Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes and **8** were consecrated through the Immaculate Conception.



55 women offered one week of service assisting in the Baths (Piscines), St. Jean de Baptiste. **32 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 **15 women** served in dining, housekeeping and embroidery at Accueils,

with **5 guides** teaching in Formation.

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



160 pilgrims traveled from across the United States and Armed Forces Europe: **49 pilgrimage volunteers** offered selfless service preparing for the arrival of special needs pilgrims and provided dining, housekeeping and wheelchair assistance; **17 caregivers and companions** cared for special needs pilgrims both in flight and while in Lourdes; **21 medical volunteers** including nurses, physicians, practitioners and therapists offered medical supportive care.

38 special needs pilgrims, wheelchair-bound, profoundly handicapped and seriously ill, including **4 religious**, traveled to Lourdes assisted by both personal and supportive medical care volunteers along with chaplains and leaders.

14 priests provided spiritual direction and **2 religious sisters** were a spiritual presence. Each pilgrimage was directed by an experienced leadership team.

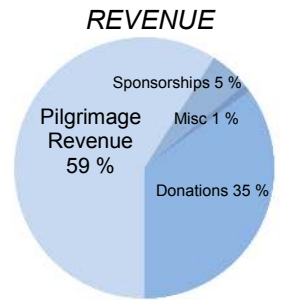
All medical and lay volunteers offered service and paid their own costs for pilgrimage which can be a tax deduction on 1040 Schedule A. However, the graces and personal reward for service are beyond credit!



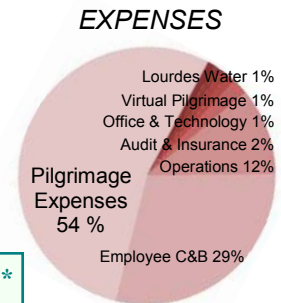
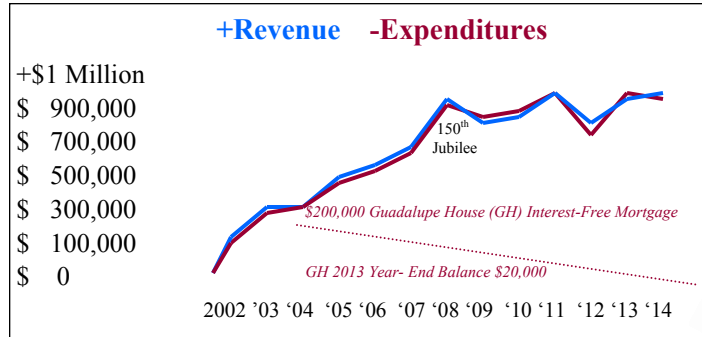
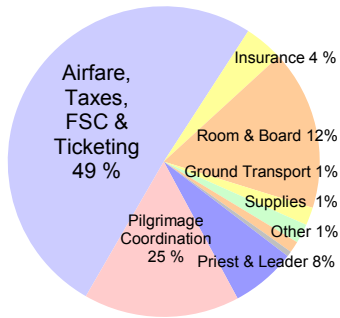
SUSTAINING OUR EVANGELICAL MISSION

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

***FINANCIAL INFORMATION UNAUDITED UNTIL 990 FILING**
 2012 independent audited available upon request
 ✦ ✦ ✦
Volunteer pilgrimages and donations are tax-deductible on 1040 Schedule A. Please consult your tax advisor.



PILGRIMAGE MONIES
 Average Pilgrimage Cost Percentages



93¢ 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 ~\$719 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 ~\$105+ policy coverage included for each individual pilgrim and volunteer for medical or travel emergencies.

2013 SPONSORSHIPS
 26 SPECIAL NEEDS - ANDREA'S WISH
 8 PILGRIM-VOLUNTEERS - PRIVATE DONORS
 18 YOUTH VOLUNTEERS - FUNDRAISING

LOURDES VOLUNTEERS LIFE-TIME SERVICE COMMITMENT



The Arch-confraternity Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes, a Public Association of the Christian Faithful, is comprised of 8,000 lay members who come to Lourdes to serve the Sanctuaries for one week each year. After five years of Service and Formation in the Message of Lourdes in the spirit of Hospitalité, a member can make a life-time formal Commitment to the Hospitalité at Mass.

Three years following this life-long pledge of service, committed members can further their

promise and deepen their spiritual devotion at Holy Mass with a Consecration to Jesus Christ through the Immaculate Conception.

This June of 2014, all faithful members who served three years or more with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, a Public Association of the Christian Faithful founded in the image of the Arch-confraternity, were invited to make a life-time commitment to serve North American Lourdes Volunteers.



APOSTOLIC PLENARY INDULGENCE THROUGH 2020

By Apostolic Decree, recognizing the response in 2012 to the 10th Anniversary Plenary Indulgence from Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, Pope Francis grants a Plenary Indulgence to faithful who make pilgrimage to Lourdes or who experience a Virtual Pilgrimage with North American Lourdes Volunteers between July 16, 2013 and July 15, 2020.

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

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:

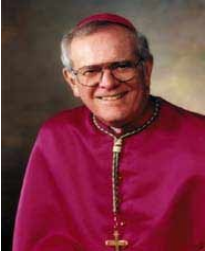
- * A Sacramental Confession with a priest
- * Reception of the Holy Eucharist
- * Prayers for the Intentions of the Holy Father
(Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be)
- * A heart and mind free from attachment to sin

It is recommended that these conditions be met at the same time or within one week, if possible.



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

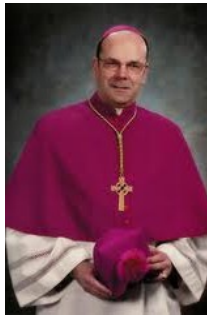
CATHOLIC CHURCH



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 J. Cunningham, Bishop of Syracuse Diocese in upstate New York.



A priest chaplain is appointed by the Bishop to spiritually assist the association. Reverends Jeffrey Keefe, OFM, Conv., and Francis Menei provide 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 individual volunteers 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 created in 2002 for travel and medical insurance, group and travel needs.

Ecclesial Authority:

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

2014 Board of Directors

Chaplains:

Rev. Jeffrey Keefe, OFM. Conv.

Fr. Francis Menei (*Harrisburg Diocese*)

Honorary Chairman of the Board

Col (Ret) David Braden **Stagiaire* 2003

President:

Marlene Watkins **Hospitalière* 2006

Vice President:

Barry Vaughn, MBA

Secretary:

Frances Salaun **Hospitalière* 2011

Treasurer:

Daniel Crapia, MBA

Teresa Lewis **Hospitalière* 2012

Marianne Fischer **Stagiaire* 2013

**Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes Member*



ACCOMPLISHED IN GRACE THROUGHOUT 2014

- PBS Sacred Journeys of our Military Pilgrimage—6 million viewers
- Over 100,000 people experienced Virtual Pilgrimage 2004 - 2014
- Virtual Pilgrimage series in Kasana-Luweero Diocese in Uganda
- LourdesMobile brought Virtual Pilgrimage from NY to Southwest
- Office residence purchased for operations occupancy in 2015
- First reception to support Lourdes Volunteers in Harrisburg, PA
- 61 volunteers made a life-time commitment to Lourdes Volunteers

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

As we continue into the second decade of sharing the Message of Lourdes, serving the sick and suffering both at Lourdes and at home, we are humbled for the profound privilege to both bring special needs pilgrims to Lourdes and to bring Lourdes across America-the-Beautiful and beyond through Virtual Pilgrimage, all with a Plenary Indulgence from Pope Francis.

We are truly thankful to each person who makes it possible for us to share the grace of Lourdes: our joyful staff, selfless volunteers, gracious donors and faithful prayer partners. We are indebted to the Sisters for our modest affordable office for 10 years at the Franciscan Motherhouse and look forward to an exciting future in our new office residence next year.

We will follow Bernadette to the Grotto at Lourdes to learn from her wondrous experiences with the Immaculate Conception. Under the gaze of the Mother of God, we can find or deepen our love of Jesus Christ and for each other—to then share this with everyone we meet.

Merci for the continued blessing to share in this grace with you! The Board of Directors

Founding Bishop:

Most Reverend James Moynihan

Contact us by phone:
Tel: (315) 476-0026



Visit us on the internet:

www.LourdesVolunteers.org