



Lourdes Letter

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

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&
Spanish
English

HOLY FATHER 150TH JUBILEE GROTTO VISIT

Pope Benedict XVI made his Jubilee Pilgrimage to Lourdes September 13, 14 and 15. An exuberant crowd estimated at 190,000 pilgrims awaited the arrival of the Pontiff in Lourdes.



Pope Benedict XVI

Two hundred and fifty Bishops, Archbishops and Cardinals with 920 priests from around the world traveled from Asia, Africa, Europe and both North and South America to join the Holy Father in prayer at the Grotto and to make the Jubilee Way in honor of the 150th anniversary of the eighteen apparitions.

pray, to do penance—a call to conversion for each of us, the Pope said:

Throughout his three day visit, the Holy Father spoke of the Message of Lourdes and its relevance to us today. Recalling the gracious invitation of the Immaculate Conception to

"Mary teaches us to pray, to make our prayer an act of love for God and fraternal charity. By praying with Mary our heart welcomes those who suffer. How can our life not be transformed by this? Why

shouldn't our entire life and whole being become places of hospitality for our neighbors? Lourdes is a place of light because it is a place of hope, communion and conversion."

Our Holy Father then promised to pray in the Lourdes Grotto replica in the Vatican Gardens with those who pray to Our Lady of Lourdes. He assured us of his prayers, joined with ours, for the intercession of our Heavenly Mother who hears our needs and brings us to Her Son, the answer to all of our needs.

To read the texts of the homilies and talks given by Pope Benedict XVI in Lourdes, see our website: www.LourdesVolunteers.org and click on Papal Visit or visit the Holy See website: www.Vatican.va

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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 have your prayer intentions included at Holy Mass:

Call (315) 476-0026
Visit us on the web at:
www.LourdesVolunteers.org

Lourdes Features on EWTN Throughout the Jubilee Year

Highlighting the Lourdes Jubilee, a series of varied shows began airing to honor the February 11 Feast Day and continued throughout the Lourdes Jubilee Year.

Old favorites such as "The Song of Bernadette" played along with interviews and new book reviews.

Père Régis-Marie was the featured guest on the Spanish

show "Neustra fe en Vivo" airing on the Feast Day and appearing on EWTN Live! with Father Dominic in June.

Father Groeschel featured Lourdes on his February show interviewing author Elizabeth Ficocelli and calling North American Volunteers "live in Lourdes" as the EWTN on-site Jubilee Feast Day correspondents.

In October 2006 EWTN filmed our Special Needs Pilgrimage. The exclusive show, *Lourdes Experience*, about pilgrimage miracles of faith debuted September 13 and featured interviews with our pilgrims and volunteers sharing their personal and spiritual journey through Mary to Jesus from the Grotto in Lourdes.



Filming Father Dominic and Père Régis-Marie with Father Mitch Pacwa on the set of EWTN Live!



"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:

Visit us on the Web!
www.LourdesVolunteers.org

To Comment, Request Copies, Inquire or Make a Donation:
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Recollecting 2008 the 150th Jubilee Year

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

Lourdes is a love story! God loves us so much He sent us His Mother to the Grotto and she loves us so much that she comes to give us her maternal guidance at a time when we need her motherly direction. Our Lady invites us in the Grotto to do "penance, penance, penance..." for us to change our hearts. As witnesses to the love of serving Christ in each other at Lourdes, we can be inspired to respond to her most gracious invitation, to experience a genuine change of heart—a true conversion in love.

This year has been a year of grace and Plenary Indulgence. Reflecting on the 150th anniversary of this loving invitation of our Heavenly Mother, let us each consider our R.S.V.P.

Blessed Jubilee!

Marlene

Marlene Watkins, President

% Lourdes Pilgrimage 2009 "

February 8-13

6 Days/5 Nights

\$995.00*

*plus \$395.00 Fuel Surcharge and Travel Insurance
Pilgrimage Includes: roundtrip JFK airfare with taxes, ground transfers, three-star hotel stay with meals, Pilgrimage (Priest) Chaplain and Pilgrimage Leader. Shared Occupancy. Major Credit Cards Accepted.

For a brochure, information or reservations:

Call Kathleen at (315) 476-0026

In- % fo@LourdesVolunteers.org %

Blessed Marianne Special Needs Pilgrimage With Youth Volunteers



The First Ones Chosen! This year marked the first-time blending of our Youth Catechesis and Service volunteers with our Special Needs pilgrims. Our special needs family with medical volunteers and helpers stayed in the Accueil Marie St-Frai with our young teen volunteers housed at the Youth Village. We joined together each day for our pilgrimage itinerary sharing the experience of Lourdes in visits to the Sanctuaries, Baths, Jubilee Way and both the Eucharistic and Candlelight Processions. Combining young-in-spirit with young-at-heart proved to be a perfect family gathering. Every pilgrim was able to serve the Christ in each other, as His Mother Mary would do! Please pray with us as we prepare for our return in 2009.

Hospitalité Commitment

Jim and Mary Lu Flynn of Cincinnati, Ohio, made their Commitment to the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes this May.

For the past five years Jim has served in St. Joseph Service and Mary Lu has offered her annual service in the Accueil Notre-Dame.

They offered a lifetime Commitment at Mass to serve every year, if possible.

Hospitalières
Jim and Mary Lu Flynn



Travel Tips: Sky Team Advantage

- It is best to purchase connecting flights to our Air France departures on Delta Airlines, a Sky Team Partner to Air France.
- If flights are delayed and misconnect, Air France with Delta Airlines rebooks connecting passengers.
- A delay on an arriving flight with another airline causing a passenger to miss the Air France outbound flight may cause travelers lengthy delays repurchasing available Air France flights.
- Other airlines may require misconnected or delayed late passengers to repurchase tickets home.
- Flying with Delta will allow travelers to check in two pieces of luggage all the way through without charge. Other airlines are imposing luggage fees.

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

"She looked at me as one person would talking to another," Bernadette said.

By explaining what had happened to her at the Grotto, Bernadette gives each of us the secret of her relationship with the Blessed Virgin.

She looked with her eyes, she listened with her ears, she spoke with her lips. In a way, Bernadette was able to experience communion.

On the other hand, this love relationship teaches Bernadette how to be loved by Jesus and how to love Him.

Looking at Mary's eyes, Bernadette became able to contemplate the Blessed Sacrament. Hearing Mary's voice trained Bernadette to listen to the Word of God. Responding to Mary teaches Bernadette how to speak to Jesus.

Let us do as Bernadette!

Pilgrimage for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing with Father Tom Coughlin, O.P.



Father Tom, Pam, Vincent and Lindsay

Our first annual pilgrimage deepened the faith of pilgrims sharing their Lourdes experience using American Sign Language. Traveling from Texas, New York, Ohio and beyond, our pilgrim family was formed in joy with the spiritual direction of the first Deaf priest ordained in the United States, Dominican Father Thomas Coughlin and signing Pilgrimage Leaders Pamela Ryan and her daughter, ASL teacher Lindsay.

A privileged meeting with Vincent, a great-great nephew of Saint Bernadette, was an opportunity to compare our American signing with his native French Sign Language.

Sponsorship to Lourdes

Through God's grace and the financial assistance of friends of Our Lady of Lourdes, our special needs pilgrims, youth helpers and volunteers are able to make pilgrimages to the Grotto. A life-changing pilgrimage to Lourdes is often the spiritual turning point in our earthly journey toward Heavenly eternity.

We entrust our finances to God and are committed not to turn away anyone in need of a pilgrimage to visit Our Lady in the Grotto and "to drink and wash of this spring..."

Each pilgrim is invited to seek support from family or friends and sponsorship from their parishes or local Knights of Columbus.

Many youth and college volunteers write letters of appeal or create fundraising activities for sponsorship.

We are grateful to friends of our mission who host fundraising events to sponsor our handicapped and sick pilgrims to Lourdes.

For more information about sponsorship, please call us or visit our website.

TAX CREDIT: Volunteer Service Pilgrimage Expenses and Donations are Tax Deductible on IRS 1040 Schedule A.

" Our Wish List %

We are in need of items both large and small to help the apostolate... Please contact us if you would be interested to make a donation.

OFFICE AND PILGRIMAGE:
medical volunteers
Rosetta Stone for French
frequent flyer miles
Xerox 7760 Print Cartridges
wheelchair lap quilts

GUADALUPE HOUSE:
security gate sponsorship
European voltage power tools
European fax machine
French computer and printer
room renovation sponsors

International Military Pilgrimage



The 50th International Military Pilgrimage and our inaugural Pilgrimage for Wounded, Veterans and Retired US Military with Families coincided with the 150th Jubilee anniversary at Lourdes. Over 20,000 military men and women from over thirty countries joined together in prayer for peace and healing in thanksgiving for the end of WWII.

Archbishop Broglio was present in Lourdes with US Military Communities of Europe taking time to meet with our pilgrims and our pilgrimage leaders including Air Force Major Christine Corbett-Cole and Army veterans returning from deployment, Iraqi Veteran Reverend Lt. Colonel Neal Buckon and Afghani Veteran medic Major Brian Weber.

Holy First Communion

After visiting the Grotto for the first time, Bernadette Soubirous made her First Confession. Just before her last visit with the Mother of God in the Grotto, Bernadette made her First Holy Communion.

With American Sign Language assistance of Father Tom Coughlin, Mary Clare made her first visit to the Grotto and was graced to make her First Holy Communion while in Lourdes this Jubilee year!



First Communicant