



Founded July 16, 2002

Lourdes Letter

The newsletter for friends of Saint Bernadette and Our Lady of Lourdes!

2009: THE YEAR OF ST. BERNADETTE AT LOURDES

“To understand Lourdes we must know Bernadette!”

In 2008 at the close of the 150th Jubilee at Lourdes, Monsigneur Jacques Perrier, the Bishop of Tarbes et Lourdes, proclaimed this year dedicated as the Year of St. Bernadette at Lourdes.

Twenty-one years after the apparitions, Bernadette lived a humble life to sanctity. She did not live in the Grotto or stay in Lourdes, instead she *lived* the Message of Lourdes.



Bernadette Soubirous

Bishop Perrier proposes that to end our understanding of Lourdes with our final farewell visit in the Grotto would be as absurd as leaving off the story of Mary at the Annunciation! The Path of Bernadette is in four stops, similar to the Jubilee Way. In discovering her way to sanctity, we can then find our own road to holiness living her example of the Message of Lourdes.

Vocation Discernment: For Bernadette, it could have been easy to resist religious

life or to enter an order that pursued her to join. She listened to spiritual direction and waited eight years to go where God called her. Let us seek good counsel and be patient for clarity to know God’s will for us.

Life in the Church: Not able to receive the Eucharist, Bernadette was an active member of the Church, both in the parish at Mass and in the domestic church, praying the nightly family rosary.

Eucharist: The Mother of God prepared Bernadette to receive her Son. She is more nourished by the Eucharist than by her memories of the Grotto. The reflection of Heaven was seen in her face the same in the Grotto as after receiving Communion.

Service: Bernadette loved Christ present in those who suffer, the members of His Body. She served in the Infirmary at Nevers and then surrendered to be the sacrifice served by others, her service then offered in prayer.

FALL-WINTER 2009

ISSUE NO. SIX

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VISIT OUR NEW BLOG!

Join us throughout our journey as we share the grace of Lourdes encountering the extraordinary in our experiences on the way...

www.LourdesVolunteers.org

18 Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes Commitments in 2009



This year, eighteen North American Lourdes Volunteers made Commitments to the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes. Each had offered one week of service for five years before making this life-long promise to serve Our Lady at Lourdes annually, when possible.

Commitments were made throughout the season at the Wednesday Hospitalité Mass in each of these services: St. Joseph, Accueil Notre-Dame, Accueil Marie St-Frai and St. Jean de Baptiste (Piscines).

As a sign of their fidelity, each accepted the ribbon and medal of the hospitalière. A reception was held to honor all new members.



September Lady Hospitalières: Elsie Fidelia, FL; Lori Ehrman, TX; Mary Belanger, KS; Liz Staley, CA; Barb Bakeburg, MN; Chrissy Marro, NY; Jo McGrath, NY Piscines, Accueils Notre-Dame and Marie St-Frai Services

Youth in Service on Pilgrimage: *The Hands and Feet of Christ*



The hands and feet of Christ were literally at work throughout our annual Blessed Marianne Special Needs Pilgrimage in June. The United States Military Archdiocese youth living with their parents stationed in Europe were joined by teens from the Santa Rosa Diocese. Together they offered a week of selfless service to pilgrims from North America who needed assistance.

From 14, the same age as Bernadette at the

time of the apparitions, to 20 years old, the time when she entered religious life, these vibrant young people came to live the Message of Lourdes in humble transport, housekeeping and dining services for the sick and handicapped.

A daily program of *learning* the Message of Lourdes and then *living* the message in service resulted in the youth (and chaperones) *loving* the Message of Lourdes! We were all blessed...



University Student Volunteers

These participating universities invited students to offer one week of service to Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes. In May and October, Steubenville students also offered service to our special needs pilgrimages. Some students were eligible for credit hours. All earned extra credit toward Heaven!



Travel Tips: New Luggage Restrictions

- ➔ Air France will limit passengers to one piece of checked-in luggage with a weight limit of 50 pounds.
- ➔ Air France will charge \$100 for luggage over the weight limit. Overages will be strictly enforced with fees collected at check-in.
- ➔ Air France will weigh

carry-on bags at the counter and will not allow carry-on bags exceeding 25 pounds.

➔ Delta and Northwest have merged creating a new Air France partnership. During merger, luggage fees may apply to checked bags with Delta on connecting flights to Air France.

*“To make the
Sign of the Cross
well
is enough
to get into Heaven,”
St. Bernadette*

“...In the Footsteps of Bernadette” with Père Régis-Marie

When someone wanted to know what we need to do to be admitted by God into Heaven, Bernadette answered to make the Sign of the Cross well.

In fact, Bernadette had received in the Grotto at Lourdes the special grace to make the Sign of the Cross very well. Let us look closer at the young girl making the Sign of

the Cross slowly, amply—and with all her heart. The fingers of her right hand lightly touch her forehead, go slowly down to her waist, go up to her left shoulder and then, always slowly, to her right shoulder. At the same time, she says in her heart what she is: poor, sick, sinner—and who God is for her—saying, “in the name of the Father, and the

Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.” Making the Sign of the Cross, Bernadette was in full communion with the Blessed Virgin. On April 16, 1879, after her last Sign of the Cross, Bernadette breathed out to enter into the Presence of God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Let our own Sign of the Cross be the sign of the Love of God for us.

Special Needs Pilgrims, Companions and Caregivers



Jamie with Ralph at the Shrine

International travel is difficult for anyone who is young or healthy or able to walk. For someone in a wheelchair, chronically or terminally ill or elderly—the thought of going to Lourdes can be overwhelming to plan and for some, impossible to go alone.

Yet, wouldn't it seem a handicapped or sick person would want to go to Lourdes even more?

God doesn't place the beautiful desire in our hearts to visit the Grotto and not make the way possible for each of us!

People with special needs traveled to Lourdes accompanied by people with a special need to care. Lay volunteers shared the experience of pilgrimage with newly found friends and families who needed caring help or nurturing on pilgrimage.

Companions offered friendship while caregivers provided personal care. Medical volunteers served supportive care needs.

Altogether, we met and were graced to be a "little holy family" in Lourdes!



St. Bernadette Pilgrimage 2009

Pilgrimage Volunteers

Serving on a pilgrimage is an almost totally different experience from serving the Sanctuaries at Lourdes.

Both services are for hospitalities, either to serve with the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes welcoming pilgrims from all over the world, or to serve our own pilgrims who traveled with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers from all over the United States.

Three special needs pilgrimages this year were served by over one hundred dedicated and smiling volunteers.

International Military Pilgrimage

After World War II, wounded and surviving soldiers from Europe came to Lourdes seeking reconciliation and found an opportunity for healing. The first International Military Pilgrimage brought together veterans in uniforms to pray in thanksgiving for the end of the war. This year 87 American veterans and family members joined soldiers of the world to pray for peace and to seek healing at Lourdes.



WANTED: Virtual Pilgrimage Motor Home

Home is where our heart is—and our heart's desire is to continue sharing the Gospel Message of Lourdes in Virtual Pilgrimages across the United States. For the past five years, thousands of "pilgrims" in parishes and schools, at organization and in prisons have touched the Grotto Rock, received a Eucharistic Blessing and Lourdes Water in a truly real experience of Lourdes at home.

To honor the Sacrament of Marriage and keep our heart at home on the road we can make travel more practical and office operations more efficient in a modest motor home...

Call (315) 476-0026 if you are interested to get us on the road!

Little Lourdes Volunteer

Once upon a time there was a young guy named Steve who served at Lourdes. He graduated from Steubenville and promised to work for one year at Lourdes Volunteers. After his hard work was done, he moved away to teach and to marry his Steubenville sweetheart. A year later, a little volunteer was born! She already knows the international language of Lourdes—a smile! We expect her to begin service in 2023.



Volunteer Isabella Hope

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

☎ Phone: (315) 476-0026
US Toll-Free 1-866 LOURDES

Visit us on the Web!
www.LourdesVolunteers.org

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.”

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

Lourdes Letter

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

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ETERNAL WORD
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*Lourdes
Feast Day
Pilgrimage*

**Most Blessed
Sacrament
Shrine & EWTN**

**Info & Reservation:
(315) 476-0026**

Feb 9: Afternoon arrivals; welcome dinner and the Rosary.
Feb 10: Day retreat with Fr. Joseph, EWTN tour & Live!
Join the audience with show guests, Lourdes Volunteers.
Feb 11 Feast Day: Shrine Tour, Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage
& Eucharistic Procession to Holy Mass in the Grotto.

\$399 Pilgrimage Package: 4 days/3 nights hotel,
meals, transfers, tours, leader, chaplain & insurance

**TAX CREDIT: Volunteer Service pilgrimage expenses
and donations are tax deductible on 1040 Schedule A
within IRS guidelines. Please consult your tax advisor.**

2010 Feast Day & LOURDES Pilgrimage Schedule

February 9-12	Retreat, Shrine & EWTN Lourdes Feast Day Pilgrimage
February 11	Feast Day at Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament (free!)
March 27-April 4	Franciscan University at Austria—Hospitalité Service
April 22-28	Pilgrimage for Deaf and Hard of Hearing—NY-JFK
May 16-26	Franciscan Steubenville Military Volunteers—Dulles
May 18-24	US Military Pilgrimage—Dulles & Houston
May 21-31	Notre-Dame/Holy Cross for Hospitalité—Chicago
May 28-June 7	Hospitalité Volunteer Service—Detroit & NY-JFK
June 11-21	St. John’s University for Hospitalité—New York-JFK
June 22-July 2	Bl. Marianne Pilgrimage Volunteers—Dulles
June 24-July 1	US Military Youth Bl. Marianne Pilgrimage Service
June 24-30	Bl. Marianne Special Needs Pilgrimage—NY-JFK & SFO
July 9-19	Hospitalité Volunteers—Dulles, SFO & LAX
July 30-August 9	Archbishop Molloy HS Hospitalité Service—NY-JFK
September 3-17	Hospitalité Service with Paris & Nevers—Miami
September 3-13	Hospitalité Volunteer Service—Houston
October 8-18	Hospitalité or Pilgrimage Service—NY-JFK, SFO & LAX
October 9-16	Franciscan University at Austria-Hospitalité or Pilgrimage
October 10-16	St. Bernadette Special Need Pilgrimage—NY-JFK