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Tel: (315) 476-0026

Visit us on the Internet:
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
107 Michaels Ave, Syracuse, NY 13208 USA

Lourdes Letter

The newsletter for friends of Our Lady and St. Bernadette

STAMP
here

You are Amazing!

Thank you for your service, prayer and support since 2002.

Look
Inside!

Love

Joy

Peace

Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers



Founded July 16, 2002

Lourdes Letter

The newsletter for friends of the Immaculate Conception and St. Bernadette



An American Oasis of Hospitality Coming to Lourdes

Thanks to the faith and generosity of our amazing benefactors, we are beginning renovations on Guadalupe House! Named after the Patroness of the Americas, Our Lady of Guadalupe, this historic home is located at the place where, in 1858, Bernadette Soubirous ran to tell the name of the beautiful Lady who appeared in the Grotto. When Bernadette told Père Peyramale what the Lady said, "I am the Immaculate Conception," the Abbé realized it was the Mother of God appearing to Bernadette. Today, pilgrims retrace the footsteps of St. Bernadette and come just outside our kitchen window to reflect on the moment Our Lady was revealed.

Recognizing the increased need for an American presence in Lourdes, our home will offer greatly-needed accommodations, office space and comfortable amenities to our members. This guaranteed year-round availability will increase our capacity to serve our special needs pilgrims and volunteers. We are thrilled to finally begin work on this historic building which will have a major impact on our ability to achieve our mission. We are asking our members to help with passionate prayers and financial support. Thanks be to God!

The Healing Grace of Lourdes

If you ask the average Catholic today what they know about Lourdes, they may say that Lourdes is a famous place of miracles or home to the Grotto where the Mother of God told Bernadette, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Lourdes is probably best known for the thousands of scientifically documented, inexplicable cures and 70 Church-proclaimed miracles. There are also countless undocumented graces of the heart and soul that occur in Lourdes. During this troublesome time in the Church today, we need our Holy Mother and holy healing. The purity of the Immaculate Conception is the holy balm capable of soothing interior wounds and suffering. Many have made the journey to Lourdes to seek healing from abuse and to be restored to wholeness. Many have found peace. Such healing magnifies the profound significance of our pilgrimage ministry.

"I am the Immaculate Conception," is Mary's answer to Bernadette when she asks the Lady her name. Yet there is no mention of healing. Why? While most healings happen in the Baths, many occur before the Holy Eucharist at Mass or the Eucharistic Procession. Mary humbly acknowledged her Immaculate Conception at Lourdes; she knew the more we shared her pure love for her Son, the more we would be open to His healing.

Please pray for our pilgrims and the healing needed by so many: *Mary, may your pure devotion to your Son purify us and help His healing power flow through our pilgrimages. May your pure love of Jesus flow through our ministry and bring healing to anyone suffering to purify and strengthen the Church of your Son, Jesus, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

FALL 2018

ISSUE NO. NINE

MEET OUR MEMBERS!

Need Lourdes Water?

To request Lourdes Water
directly from the spring:



contact (315) 476-0026 or
water@lourdesvolunteers.org

Meet Our New Website!

LourdesVolunteers.org
has a new look and layout,
making it easier to find
information on Service,
Pilgrimage and Lourdes Virtual
Pilgrimage Experience™
Remember to stay connected
with us on social media!



"I am the Immaculate Conception."

Meet Our Members!



The Solito Family, Indiana
Medical and Youth Volunteers, 2016

We learned humility, experienced love, and practiced compassion. God made us realize on this trip that the world is not all that bad after all. Even suffering is not all evil. There are still so many good people around, and this gave us hope, knowing we are not struggling alone to keep our faith alive. We also learned that we could help one another to become saints with the help of Our Lady and St. Bernadette.

It is an experience of a lifetime, yet once would not be enough. The desire to return is so strong that we say:

We left our hearts in Lourdes

We felt at home. Lourdes is so peaceful that we felt secure in the presence of our loving Heavenly Mother.

You have so much help from the doctors, nurses, priests, volunteers, and, no matter your condition, there is somebody to help you, no matter what. At first, I was afraid to go, but their overwhelming support helped me.

Do not be afraid to go. The Lord is calling you to go.

It was one of the best experiences of my life. Lourdes Volunteers was so wonderful. I never experienced anything like it, with so many volunteers watching over you and such help and cooperation. It was very special. It's an organization that I hope continues forever.

Become a Member!

Members of North American Volunteers offer their prayers and service, whether in the

Sanctuary at Lourdes or in their everyday lives and communities. It is our members who bring the sick to Lourdes and host Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experiences™ across the world. It is our members who offer the time, penance, and financial support that allows us to further our holy mission. Most of all, our members spread the Message of Lourdes by expressing our charism of Love, caring for others as the Blessed Mother cared for Jesus.



Discover the benefits and affirm your membership with North American Volunteers today! Register at www.LourdesVolunteers.org/become-a-member/ or contact our office.

Mary, Georgia

Virtual Pilgrimage Host, 2017
Medical Volunteer, 2018

After the NALV Medical Conference, I told myself that, if I couldn't go to Lourdes, at least I could bring the Virtual Pilgrimage to our parish, St. Anne. After coordinating the Virtual Pilgrimage with Fran Salaun last October, I knew without a doubt that I was being called to Lourdes by Our Lady. When I think of Lourdes, I think of

Great peace and unspeakable joy

Our Lady called me there to bring me closer to her Son. Service with Lourdes Volunteers has changed my perspective on caring for children with special needs and their families. In my faith life, I am drawn ever more strongly to attend Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament. Another great blessing has been how our medical team still keeps in touch with each other daily through prayer and uplifting messages.

Diane, New York

Special Needs Pilgrim, 2018

Going to Lourdes with an illness and knowing there would be doctors and our assigned nurse, Lindsey, made us very comfortable. I can't say how much the volunteers added to the pilgrimage. One thing my husband Joe said to me was:

"I feel so special. I don't know if everyone feels this special, but I feel so special."



Peter, Ohio

University Service, 2017

Our Lady's Grace in Action

If you're not sure if you should go: pray. Talk to others who have gone. Consider where you want to see Our Lady's grace in action: hardships in your own life, sick friends and relatives, loved ones in need of conversion. Ask God what your talents are and where He wants you to use them. And don't be afraid to ask God for a sign.



Humble, caring, compassionate and obedient like Bernadette

Ma Michel, Florida

Hospitalière Notre-Dame de Lourdes since 2008

My favorite aspect of service is witnessing the power of the Holy Spirit helping us in the Piscines. Among all the different languages and different cultures, we help people in the Baths, and they come out so happy and bright. Lourdes is a very holy place that God gave us through his Mother to teach us how to be humble, caring, compassionate and obedient like Bernadette. If you have heard about Lourdes Volunteers, it is not by chance. It is a call from Mary Our Mother to express the Message of Lourdes, to go pray and visit the sick.



Pictured with Foundress Marlene Watkins

Toni, New York

Advance Team since 2017
Virtual Pilgrimage Host, 2017

For me, living 10 days in Lourdes was like walking in a never-ending Miracle! I was struck with a profound renewal of faith through the realization that, here in Lourdes, the Mother of God actually appeared in the unsightly setting of a grotto in Massabielle and conversed with a sickly peasant girl, leaving behind proof of her divine visit. At the very site where Our Lady asked Bernadette to dig in dry dirt and wash from the spring, water flows to this day. And from her requests to have a chapel built and to conduct processions, people still come together in song and prayer each year!

To me, it is the only place of universal peace

In May 2018, NALV brought a Virtual Pilgrimage to my hometown. The community responded wholeheartedly, beyond expectations, as if they, too, longed to hear the messages of Our Lady and St. Bernadette. We sang in full voice; touched Grotto rocks; blessed ourselves with Lourdes water; and gave full attention to the story of Lourdes.



Linda, Florida

Medical Volunteer since 2003

Lives touched, Faith Renewed

I have been profoundly touched by the spirit of Lourdes. I take memories and prayers of Lourdes into each and every day. I feel my faith has been made stronger and that I am closer to Our Lady. I have come to realize the gifts that have been given to me to share.

When I think of Lourdes, I think of experiencing the Community of the Church, feeling its strength and witnessing the faith and courage of thousands of pilgrims from all over the world. It is also a joy to see lives touched, faith renewed, and to see healings occur. My favorite moment was training to work in the Piscines, the Baths at the Grotto. I later returned and accompanied one of my very ill pilgrims and was led to the very stall I had trained! My group asked me "is this a special pilgrim?" And we cried and prayed together. If you are blessed to make the journey to Lourdes, you will be forever changed.



Lourdes Volunteers

By the Numbers

16

Years since our founding on July 16th, 2002

91

Cents per dollar spent on programs and services

205

Pilgrimages in 16 years

2004

Year of our first Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™

2012

Year Plenary Indulgence was granted to us by Papal Decree

2,323

Special Needs Pilgrims who have journeyed to Lourdes

3,299

Volunteers who have served in Lourdes

151,796

Pilgrims reached through Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™

162,742

Bottles of Lourdes Water shared

Be Our Rock

Consider giving monthly to provide us the solid foundation of operating funds we need to continue our mission together.

(315) 476-0026