



Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, LTD.

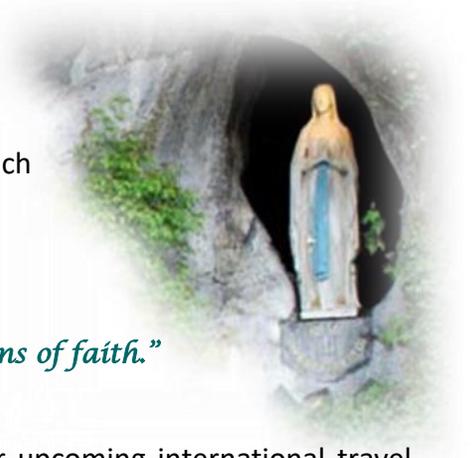
Public Association of the Christian Faithful and First Hospitality of the Americas

Dear Lourdes Pilgrim,

A physical pilgrimage is a spiritual journey to a place made holy by a heavenly encounter. You are about to discover the Grotto as such a place and Lourdes pilgrimage as a truly blessed experience!

Pope Francis tells us:

“...making a pilgrimage is one of the most eloquent expressions of faith.”



There are many practical preparations you will be making for your upcoming international travel. However, your spiritual preparation is also important! To best assist you for what will be a special time in your spiritual life, I offer the following suggestions for your consideration:

Spiritual Preparation and Prayer

- Pray for an open heart to welcome the “liquid graces of mercy” waiting you
- Meditate on the Holy Scriptures by reading the Gospels or praying the Rosary
- Offer to take prayer intentions to the Grotto for family, friends and fellow parishioners

Discover or Deepen Your Knowledge of St. Bernadette and the Message of Lourdes

- Watch the classic “Song of Bernadette” or newer “Bernadette” and “The Passion of Bernadette”
- Easy Reading: Lourdes: Font of Faith, Hope, and Charity by Elizabeth Ficocelli
- Spiritual Reading: A Holy Life by Patricia McEachern (the translated writings of Bernadette)
- Accurate Historical Account of Lourdes: Bernadette Speaks by Père René Laurentin

Plenary Indulgence

- Read the information about this special opportunity for grace on the reverse side of this letter

My friend-in-Christ, I invite you to take full advantage of this spiritual opportunity to deepen your relationship with God through the graciousness of His Mother and humble Bernadette in the Grotto. You will experience first-hand the “spirit of Lourdes” and surely, *you will be forever changed.*

Please be assured of my prayers for you now and on pilgrimage. I look forward to meeting you soon!

With every blessing for a fruitful pilgrimage,

Fr. Robert Hyde

Reverend Robert Hyde, Spiritual Director

Fr. Francis Menei

Reverend Francis Menei, Spiritual Director Emeritus

Plenary Indulgence at Lourdes

In 2013, a Plenary Indulgence was granted by the Holy Father until 2020 to faithful making pilgrimage to Lourdes or attending a Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers.



What is a plenary indulgence?

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

How can I gain this plenary indulgence?

Any baptized Catholic is eligible for indulgences formally decreed by the Church. Indulgences have a specific act as well as conditions* that must be performed to acquire the indulgence. The usual conditions* are:

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

**It is recommended these conditions be met on the same day or at the same time of the act. If the disposition is less than complete or if the conditions are not fulfilled, the indulgence is only partial.*

Lourdes:

Learn more about Lourdes by visiting the following website: <http://en.lourdes-france.org>



For more information: (315) 476-0026 or www.LourdesVolunteers.org