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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

Join us in Prayer Today and Everyday...

We pray for all our members, in this world and the other world, and remember all our benefactors and donors.
Just as Bernadette, we can take one bead of our Rosary, praying with all our hearts the words of the Angel Gabriel,

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*



Monthly Membership Mass

Unite with us each month
in celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Register your membership today!



Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™

Journey with us to the “Grotto of your
heart.” Offered in English and Spanish.



Monthly Family Rosary

Stay connected spiritually with us by
joining our Family Rosary.

Pray with us every month!



Connect with us on social media!

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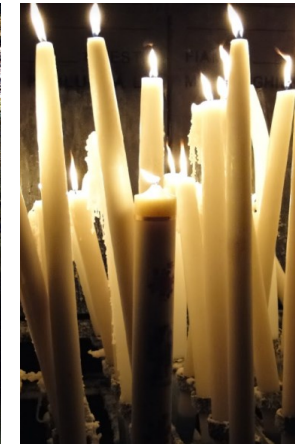
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers



Founded July 16, 2002

Lourdes Letter

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



United Together in the Grotto of Our Hearts

When asked if she missed the Grotto after she left for religious life in Nevers, never to return to Lourdes again, Bernadette replied, “I go to the Grotto every day in my heart and make my pilgrimage there.” We can do the same throughout this world-wide pandemic, afterward and always.

We are blessed to be a Lourdes Hospitality, the first Lourdes Hospitality outside of Europe and first of the Americas. Coming from such a distance to bring our very sick to the Grotto with medical and lay volunteers, teens in service to them and with our adult volunteers in service to Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes, we have been in France 10-12 times each year for the past 18 years—until this year. Unable to travel, you might think we would feel disconnected from the Lourdes and Grotto we so love. Instead, we are united! We are joined altogether through our hearts beating in unison with our prayers in the Grotto. We are brought closer to each other through this union of prayer. No matter where we are in the world, we can spiritually meet in the beloved “Grotto of our Hearts,” as Bernadette taught us. ~Marlene Watkins, Lourdes United broadcast live world-wide from Lourdes, July 18, 2020.

You are not alone at this time! *Be NOT afraid* appears 365 times in Sacred Scripture, once for each day of the year to be mindful not be frightened. Just before the first apparition, Bernadette was afraid—until she made the Sign of the Cross with all of her heart, like the most beautiful lady. We can do the same! We can meet in the Grotto of our hearts, make the Sign of the Cross altogether, united in prayer to be in the peaceful presence of the Grotto, under the loving maternal gaze of Our Lady of Lourdes.

20/20 Vision: We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight Alone

As we began the year 2020, our Lourdes Volunteers Family reflected on our 20/20 vision “looking back with gratitude and looking forward in faith.” It was impossible to foresee all that has been brought on our world by the coronavirus pandemic. While we could not travel to Lourdes on pilgrimage nor travel around the world bringing Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™, we walked forward in faith, one step at a time. We prayed, fasted, gathered for our Family Rosary, celebrated Membership Masses, provided spiritual resources to our members, shipped healing Lourdes Water to the suffering, and began broadcasting online Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experiences™ worldwide with an extraordinary plenary indulgence granted by the Holy See. With abundant graces granted and received, we continue 2020 and beyond looking back in gratitude and forward in faith. Thanks be to God!

FALL 2020

ISSUE NO. 11

Our 20/20 Vision!

Walk by faith, not by sight...

Pandemic Plenary Indulgence

Extraordinarily granted with
usual conditions and
attendance at a live broadcast
Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage
Experience™

Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™

Live broadcast monthly since
June in English and Spanish
reaching over 60,000 pilgrims
in over 30 countries

First Membership Meeting

We gathered in July on the
18th anniversary of our
founding to celebrate and
share our blessings.



Lourdes Volunteers in 2020

First Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ offered online via live broadcast.

Over 30,000 bottles of Lourdes Water shared.

We are dedicated to continuing this healing ministry, especially so those who are sick can receive the grace of Lourdes Water.

We have new found ways to remain united in prayer.

Each month over 100 faithful have gathered to pray the Family Rosary with us.

Our Bernadette Brigade continues to pray daily for the needs of our association and its members.

Become a Member!

New to us in 2020? Receive all the graces by registering as a member today.

Existing members are encouraged to reaffirm your membership online or by calling our office.

United in prayer with you, and for you in the “Grotto of our hearts.”

Online Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™

Edwin and Charo Rojas

Board of Directors, Pilgrimage Leaders, Virtual Pilgrimage Guides

Es para nosotros un honor y una gran bendición ser Guías del Peregrinaje Virtual a Lourdes™ y llevar esta experiencia a todos los países del mundo. Muchas personas deciden ir al Santuario de Lourdes para servir o llevar a peregrinos enfermos, cuando escuchan sobre el mensaje de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes a Sta. Bernardita Soubirous, conocen las ceremonias y eventos del Santuario y ven cómo se vive diariamente el mensaje de Nuestra Señora, a través del Peregrinaje Virtual a Lourdes.

Estando consagrados a Jesús por María, Dios nos guía por la intercesión de Nuestra Santísima Madre, para llevar su mensaje, especialmente para aquellos que no pueden peregrinar desde países lejanos hasta el Santuario de Lourdes. ¡Lourdes es para el mundo entero!

It is an honor and a great blessing for us to be Guides of the Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ and bring the message of Lourdes to the entire world. Many people decide to serve in Lourdes or bring pilgrims with special needs, after they learn of the message of Our Blessed Mother to St. Bernadette, know the events and ceremonies of the Sanctuary, and see how the message of Lourdes is lived daily, through a Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience.

Being consecrated to Jesus through Mary, God guides us in the intercession of Our Lady to give her message, especially to those who cannot go on pilgrimage to Lourdes from far away countries. Lourdes is for the entire world!

Lourdes Family Rosary

Manuel Family

Lourdes Pilgrimage 2018

The Rosary is a beautiful symbol of peace and strength, especially in these trying times of solitude, anxiety, and uncertainty. The Lourdes Family Rosary is a tremendous blessing and a beacon of hope for our family during this time. We look forward to hearing the voices and seeing familiar faces of dear friends who were brought into our lives by the North American Volunteers.

We have always known the importance of daily family prayer. This pandemic has brought many hardships, but even more, it has brought beautiful blessings to our family. It has slowed us down, and by doing this, it has given us more time together and united us in prayer more and more each day.

The times we get to pray the Lourdes Family Rosary are an absolute favorite. We cherish praying with friends and family especially when we are asked to go to the Grotto of our Hearts. We are transported right back to Lourdes with our Blessed Mother, united in peace, confidence and love.

Lourdes Medical Volunteers Support Group

Fr. Andrew Ibegbulem, OSA

Mental Health Counseling

Dr. Majel Braden, Ed.D

Grief and Trauma Counseling

The Covid-19 pandemic has altered the world as we know it. There is no gain in saying that many are living in fear of the unknown. The mystery surrounding the coronavirus is beyond human comprehension but not beyond the God who made the universe. Amidst the uncertainty, depression, fear and anxiety, is the trauma experienced in the medical and health profession. This trauma is faced each day as they care for those who are battling with their lives as a result of being infected by the coronavirus.

Our Lourdes medical volunteers are not left out of these experiences in their various places of work. Our Lady of Lourdes has created a confidential medical support group community. This support group encourages trauma work which involves the sharing of one's stories; the feelings and thoughts that surround them as they process the painful experiences. This often reconnects to related trauma of the past; however, through this support group, all are safe while they share their personal stories.

This unique community is comprised of medical volunteers who have served the sick and disabled in Lourdes. This support group is co-facilitated by Fr. Andrew and Dr. Majel.

Bernadette Brigade

Dania Alvarez

Member since 2020

In the awe of Lourdes, it's very easy to get caught up in one's service and forget that we need to constantly recharge in the greatest way possible: prayer. Prayer allows us to serve as Jesus and Our Lady are calling us to serve. And, it also allows us to put ourselves in an internal silence, so deep, that nothing can stop us from first seeking the Holy Spirit's will.

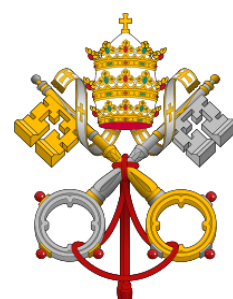
That is why I joined the Bernadette Brigade. Our Apostolate will always be okay, as long as prayer is our first priority. Struggle in prayer can be real, so don't seek a perfection that belongs to God alone, if you feel called to join this special ministry. Just remember that where two or more are gathered in His name, He too will be there. And, God is faithful in His promises. Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette, St. Benoit Joseph Labré, pray for us.

Pope Francis Proclaims a Plenary Indulgence

We are blessed to have the Holy Father make the great gift of plenary indulgence available to all faithful making pilgrimage to Lourdes or experiencing Lourdes in a Virtual Pilgrimage with North American Lourdes Volunteers by fulfilling the usual norms and conditions between July 16, 2020 thru July 15, 2027.

This indulgence has been extraordinarily extended during this world-wide pandemic and time of restricted travel to include those that experience a Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ via broadcast, live stream, recorded television or radio program with us.

PAENITENTIARIA



APOSTOLICA

Monthly & Lourdes Legacy Giving

Stars of Mary monthly donors are the shining stars that help light the way for our mission. Each monthly donation guides us through the twelve months of the year! If you are already a faithful donor, we thank you, as every gift helps us sustain our mission of healing and transformation. *We humbly ask that you consider joining the Stars of Mary by making a commitment of as little as \$12 a month.*

Lourdes Legacy Giving As Catholics, our estate planning should reflect our spiritual values. All that we have are blessings from God and we are all called to return a portion of these blessings in service to others. *Please consider including us in your Catholic Legacy Will.*

