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[www.LourdesVolunteers.org](http://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*

### An Anniversary Gift for You...

Honoring our 20th anniversary, the Holy See recently extended a new indulgence for our members.  
Read more about this special opportunity for grace inside!

*May the gift of these holy indulgences continue to bless us and help us  
become the saints God created us to be, drawing us closer to Christ through His Immaculate Mother.*



#### Service

We love each person as Christ,  
caring for Him as His Mother would  
both at Lourdes and at home.



#### Faith and Family

Share in the opportunities for grace  
and deepen your faith by joining  
the Lourdes Volunteers family.



#### Prayer

Join us in prayer, through  
The Rosary, at Mass, at Adoration  
or in sacrifice and suffering.

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*



20TH  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION

### Celebrating Twenty Years of Everyday Miracles of Lourdes!

July 16th, 2022 marked the 20th anniversary of the founding meeting of our first board of directors. The minutes from that 2002 meeting were revisited this year showing the first order of business was to pray the Rosary together. This was also the first "order of business" for Our Lady of Lourdes at each of the eighteen apparitions with Bernadette. Everything begins with and flows from prayer with Our Blessed Mother, the Immaculate Conception.

At our July membership meeting, Foundress Marlene Watkins, recalled that throughout the year prior to that first meeting, she made a weekly holy hour, praying for discernment before the Blessed Sacrament. It is from that fount of prayer that twenty years of everyday miracles began to flow.

No one could have imagined the extraordinary number of graces that would pour through our humble apostolate. God's gifts always exceed our biggest dreams. We now number over 11,600 registered members! We have accompanied 236 pilgrimages and over 6,300 pilgrims and volunteers to the Grotto in Lourdes. Over \$1.3 million in financial assistance has been gifted through our Andrea's Wish Fund, making holy pilgrimage possible for the sick and disabled. Today, we are producing and directing our own video series and will soon have our first book published; continuing our mission of evangelization!

For those unable to make the journey to the Grotto, our Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ has brought the message of Lourdes to parishes, schools, prisons, detention centers, nursing homes and hospitals. This experience has been shared with over 300,000 pilgrims in forty-seven states and on five continents. During the pandemic, this grace was extended online to millions via livestream and TV broadcast on EWTN with an exceptional plenary indulgence. Most recently our LVPE™ accompanied the relics of St. Bernadette across the United States. Through virtual pilgrimages, office calls and online requests, we have shared hundreds of thousands of bottles of Lourdes water, providing a tangible sign of God's peace and healing for the suffering, discouraged and lonely.

Yet, for all the many accomplishments of our apostolate over the last twenty years, the most beautiful graces are the profound stories of healing and peace in individual lives—the everyday miracles of Lourdes witnessed along the way to the Grotto.

WINTER 2022

ISSUE No. 12

#### First Book to Launch

*Everyday Miracles of  
Lourdes* available soon!



#### Members Only

Special indulgences  
granted to registered  
members in honor of our  
anniversary.

Learn more inside.

#### Upcoming Feast Day

The Feast of Our Lady of  
Lourdes is February 11.

Send us your prayer  
intentions to hand deliver  
to the Grotto in Lourdes.



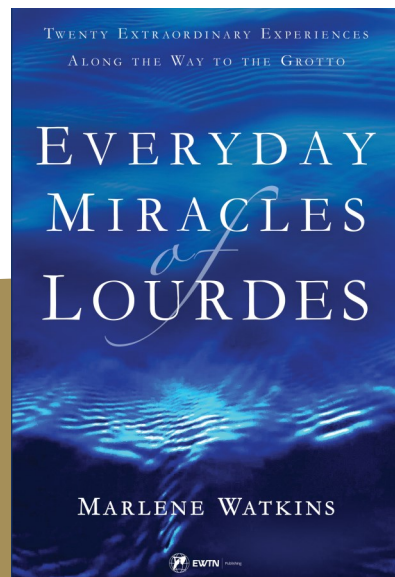
Join us today!

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*"....I will forget no one." —Saint Bernadette Soubirous*





## 20 Years and Growing!

### Stars of Mary

*Pledge your monthly donation to help continue our holy work*

### Lourdes Legacy Giving

*Include us in your estate planning to leave a legacy for the next generations of Lourdes Volunteers*

### Bernadette Brigade

*Join our team of prayer warriors in daily prayer for our Association*

### Monthly Family Rosary

*Pray with us the second Saturday of each month*

### Lourdes Water Ministry

*One ounce bottles available upon request*

### New to us in 2022?

**Register as a member today!**

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

**(315) 476-0026**

## A Holy Desire, A Holy Saint, A Holy Relic Pilgrimage of Grace!

St. Bernadette’s spirituality is characterized by her holy desire. She desired to make her First Holy Communion, which brought her back to Lourdes from Bartres just prior to the apparitions in 1858. Later, it was her desire to see the Lady, as she promised, that gave her the strength to overcome the many obstacles that were put in her path. Ultimately, it was her desire for the “happiness of the other world” which carried her on the path to holiness throughout her life.

Following the loving example of St. Bernadette’s holy desire, our foundress expressed a holy desire to bring the relics of this holy saint to the United States for the first time ever for our 20th anniversary. Then, unexpectedly, the pandemic turned the world upside down and little thought was given to that holy desire. It was as if that desire was planted like a seed, entrusted to the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady in the Grotto. Miraculously, that seed sprouted, grew and came to fruition quickly —just in time for our 20th anniversary!

The relics of St. Bernadette traveled for four months from coast to coast and across the heartland to over forty locations, including cathedrals, shrines, parish churches, chapels—and our own humble Lourdes Volunteers office in Syracuse, NY! Along the way, she was accompanied by our Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™ guides sharing the message of Lourdes with the thousands of pilgrims who came to venerate these holy relics. Seventy individual virtual pilgrimages were shared by our guides on the relic tour alone.

Many of our members and friends came together to pray and reminisce of memories made in the Grotto. New friendships were formed. Many were welcomed and openly shared their love and devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette. In addition to the veneration of the holy relics, there were reverent Masses, many with Anointing of the Sick, long lines for Confession, holy hours and Eucharistic and Candlelight Rosary processions through the streets of local villages and cities.

It is said, especially in Lourdes, there are “no coincidences, only God-incidences.” So, it should come as no surprise that this relic tour took place in 2022 as the US Conference of Catholic Bishops kicked off the three-year National Eucharistic Revival on the Feast of Corpus Christi. It is as if this holy saint, who desired so much to receive Jesus in the Eucharist, brought that desire to the hearts of Americans across this country. May the holy seeds of desire scattered throughout this holy pilgrimage be nourished with prayer and Lourdes Water to bear the fruit for a Eucharistic Revival in our country and the world!

## Our Home in Lourdes Resumes Its Renovation

Guadalupe House, our historic home in Lourdes, resumed its renovation permit this year! Work was paused due to the pandemic, but we are now targeting completion for late 2023 or early 2024. When completed, this beautiful home will be an oasis of American hospitality in Lourdes, where Association members and others will stay in Lourdes. We will be communicating specific needs with our members as work continues. There will be opportunities for support including financial, help from trades volunteers and other specific areas in the coming year. Please pray for our house as it becomes our home and stay tuned for updates!



## Everyday Miracles of Lourdes Book Launch February 11, 2023

We are blessed to announce the publishing of our first book, *Everyday Miracles of Lourdes*, written by Marlene Watkins. Containing twenty personal stories, this book speaks to the extraordinary encounters with Our Lady of Lourdes experienced by “pilgrims” and the multitude of graces received through their faith journey. The book illustrates an awakening of faith, forever changing the lives of those who come to learn the message of Lourdes.

*Everyday Miracles of Lourdes* was the source for many of the fourteen episodes of *My Lourdes Faith Journey*, which aired on EWTN and is available on our YouTube channel. We are excited for the opportunity to evangelize through sharing true Lourdes stories.

In celebration of the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes 2023, our book will launch live from France. Author Marlene Watkins will be appearing on popular EWTN programs during the weeks leading up to this launch.

*Be sure to order your copy as soon as available from Sophia Institute Press. All proceeds from sales of the book will help to fund the work of our association.*

## Return to Lourdes with Full Special Needs Pilgrimage

In October 2022, we were privileged to return to the Sanctuary of Lourdes accompanying 112 pilgrims on their faith journey to the Grotto. Only our second pilgrimage since 2019, we once again escorted the sick and disabled with the support of experienced medical and lay volunteers.

The Sanctuary welcomed our return and together we lovingly offered our pilgrims the Celebration of the Eucharist in the Grotto, International Mass in the Underground Basilica of St. Pius X, the Candlelight Rosary procession, the Eucharistic procession, guided prayer in the Gesture of Water and much more.

We were blessed to have the film crew from *60 Minutes* visit our pilgrimage. What a great opportunity to share about Lourdes on national television! Stay tuned for the feature segment to air on CBS Television.

*In 2023, we will have pilgrimages to Lourdes in both June and October. If you are interested in joining us, please contact our office.*

## Special Indulgence for Members

By Apostolic Papal Decree, from June 01, 2022 through May 31, 2029, indulgences are granted to inscribed faithful members for personal witness of faith, participation in pious practices and acts of evangelization, charity, mercy and penance.

At death or funeral rite, a plenary indulgence is granted. Further, a renewal of grace is granted on the feast days honoring Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Bernadette Soubirous, and the founding of the Association.

Fulfillment of the usual norms and conditions is required. More information provided upon registration.

