



Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, LTD.

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

November 21, 2023

Welcome to Widows and Single Women who are considering joining us in our Private Association of the Faithful founded by Bishop Lucia, 2 February 2023. We are under the Public Association of the Christian Faithful of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers. Our Lady of Lourdes is the Patroness Saint for our Consecrated Widows and St. Bernadette is the Patroness Saint for the Consecrated Women. We vow to live a life of prayer and service for the sick and suffering at home and/or at Lourdes following the loving example of St. Bernadette with simplicity, humility and obedience. Together we invite you to daily join us in prayer for this newly founded community.

As you discern the Lord's call into this community of widows and single women, we welcome you and will accompany you through this process. The first step in this journey is to become a member of Lourdes Volunteers. Please note that the application for the membership is the initial document that is attached. Once you have completed your application then you are welcome to contact the office of Lourdes Volunteers. After receiving your contact information, the office team will be sending you a packet of information about this apostolate. It will include the necessary paperwork and the required readings about our community. We are committed to helping you along this journey towards your Day of Consecrated Life within our community.

Formation Process of a Consecrated Widow or Consecrated Woman: PRAYERFULLY DISCERN

- 1) Become a member of Lourdes Volunteers.
- 2) Contact the Lourdes Volunteers office to receive the Consecrated Life information packet.
- 3) Read the Rule of Life. Then, submit three letters to Lourdes Volunteers office: first letter is written to the Bishop stating your desire to be a Consecrated Widow/Woman, the second letter is from your Catholic Spiritual Director or Parish Priest attesting to your good character and suitability for a consecrated life, and the third letter is written from a practicing Catholic friend stating your good character as a faithful Catholic.
- 4) Our consecrated community will interview and consider you after the three letters are received.
- 5) Formation and preparation of candidate through prayer, service and holy living as stated in the Rule of Life; become knowledgeable about the Apostolate through reading of the Statutes and By Laws, two books: *Everyday Miracles of Lourdes* by our foundress, Marlene Watkins and *Bernadette Speaks: A Life of Saint Bernadette Soubirous in Her Own Words* by Pere Rene Laurentin.
- 6) After this formation time, please speak with your parish priest or Catholic spiritual director to agree upon a date for your consecration following the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. For a widow, the Rule of Life recommends a date on or near 19 March, the Feast Day of St. Joseph and the day in which Our Lady became a widow. Single women, please consider a date near the Feast Day of St. Bernadette, 16 April. After the Consecration, please send your signed Prayer and Vow Form to the Lourdes Volunteers office.

This is the process you are invited to complete in order to be received into the community of Consecrated Widows and Consecrated Women. As stated in the Rule of Life for the renewal of our annual vows, all members are to submit a letter from their priest and/or spiritual director and a personal letter reporting their life of prayer and service during the past year. These are to be sent to the Office of Lourdes Volunteers.



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It is the Lord's grace and Our Lady's blessing that we welcome and journey together with you towards living a Consecrated Life in our community.

United in prayer through the Immaculate Conception of the Grotto,

Council of Consecrated Widows and Consecrated Women
Lourdes Volunteers
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