



Our Lady of Lourdes J-fosyitafity **North American Volunteers**

The Way of Life For the Lay Community of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows (A Private Association of the Faithful)

*of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers
(A Public Association of the Christian Faithful)*

Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows Prayer

*Our Lady of Lourdes, we entrust our lives into your Holy Life and Holy Widowhood.
You are our perfect model of purity, prayer and service which you, so Full of Grace,
offered to God the Father during the life and death of your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ,
and your holy husband protector and most chaste spouse, St. Joseph.*

*Through the Holy Spirit,
we unite our consecrated life to you as the Immaculate Conception of the Grotto.
Please grant that we may lovingly serve those in need of the grace of Lourdes
through Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers.
Amen*

Introduction

"When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home." (John 19:26-27)

Following the example of Mary, the Mother of God, who in her holy life and widowhood served her beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus, even unto the Foot of the Cross, and the women disciples of Jesus who supported his earthly ministry, women and widows have served the mission of the Church throughout the ages.

The Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows through private vows of Prayer, Service and Chastity are formed as a group to imitate these women of Scripture and Tradition. We seek to serve our Lord and further the mission of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers by imitating the service of the Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Bernadette.

Through private vows lived out in service to the sick and suffering with the ministry of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers (OLOLHNAV), we will serve the Lord Jesus



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as Mary and Bernadette did, by evangelizing through the Gospel Message of Lourdes as St. Bernadette did, through our words, prayer, chastity, and good works.

As Consecrated Women we vow to live a life of prayer and service. We are registered members of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers. As members, we share in our charism of love, expressed in the spirit of loving family with joy.

We profess this as our rule: to serve the sick and suffering at Lourdes and at home following the loving example of St. Bernadette in simplicity, humility and obedience.

Compliant within the Statutes and By-Laws of the Public Association of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, we are practicing faithful Catholics who make a private vow consecrating ourselves to live a chaste life offered in service and good works:

St. John Paul II, Vita Consecrata #7, "these women (*and men*) through a vow of perpetual chastity, as a sign of the Kingdom of God, consecrate their state of life in order to devote themselves to prayer and the service of the Church."

Way of Life: Prayer and Service

Life of Prayer: Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows will attend the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Sunday and ordinarily on a daily basis, unless for a serious reason impeding attendance, such as, ill health or the health needs of a family member entrusted in their care. Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows will include in their prayer life: Adoration, Scripture, Rosary and receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly. A Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow may be called to direct service to family or others in need and thus be limited in her private prayer time. A Consecrated Woman and Consecrated Widow should inform the chair of the Committee of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows or another Committee member if this or any other circumstance limits her time for private prayer.

Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows are encouraged to have a Catholic Spiritual Director.

Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows who live within the same geographical area are encouraged to gather with others living the consecrated life in the charism of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers to observe their commitment of prayer and service in the spirit of family with joy.

Monthly, Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows are encouraged to gather for prayer, formation, study and service.

Annually, Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows will participate in a prayerful retreat.

Four to seven Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows, appointed by the OLOLHNAV Board of Directors, will form a Committee to address needs and concerns of the group of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows to (1) assist others called to consecrated life; (2)



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arrange the annual retreat; and (3) create and maintain a communication network for this lay community.

Life of Service: In loving each person as Christ, Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows, when able, will annually serve with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France by assisting others as a volunteer at the airport, as companion or caregiver, housekeeper, medical professional or serve at the Sanctuary in the Baths, the Accueils and ceremonies. Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows unable to fulfill the commitment of serving at the Sanctuary in Lourdes, France; may serve the sick and suffering at home through their local and parish ministries.

As Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows, the heart of our charism being love expressed in the spirit of family with joy, may be called to serve family needs requiring a long-term commitment. Therefore, unable to serve as a volunteer locally or in the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes in France, such a woman or widow's holy work at home will be a sign of living out her vow serving the sick and suffering in the holy example of St. Bernadette.

Lifestyle: Following the loving example of St. Bernadette in simplicity, humility and obedience, a Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow will be obedient to the teachings of the Magisterium of the Catholic Church. Each woman must be canonically “free” (see CCC 1625 and 1629), for example a divorced woman must have an annulment if the divorced spouse is still alive. In addition to taking the Oath of Membership with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, each woman vows to live a life of chastity. A Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow will live her consecrated life in a simple joyful manner so as to be a witness of Christ's love for her and to bring forth the fruit of evangelizing within her family and community. Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows will be completely self-supporting, including health insurance, will in no way be financially dependent upon Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, their local priest, the Bishop or the Diocese of Syracuse, New York.

Discernment, Acceptance, and Formation Process of a Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow Under Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers

1) Upon the prayerful discernment of a woman who senses a call by the Holy Spirit to become a Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow within the group of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, she must first be a registered member of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers. [Registration can be made by contacting the office via phone at (315) 476-0026, by mail to Lourdes Volunteers, 107 Michaels Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13208 or electronically to Consecrated@LourdesVolunteers.org.]

2) As a registered member, a woman who aspires to enter this consecrated lay community must contact her parish priest and Catholic Spiritual Director (should she have one) to share her desire to make her vow, for one year, to follow the Rule of Life as a Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow with Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers. With this support, she must



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submit a written letter of her desire to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers office. This letter will be accompanied by a letter from her parish priest and Catholic Spiritual Director (should she have one) attesting to her good character and suitability for a consecrated life of prayer, service and chastity.

Another letter of recommendation from a practicing Catholic of good character should accompany these two letters. Copies of the letters will be provided to the Bishop of Syracuse, New York once the candidate is accepted for candidacy by the Committee.

3) The letters will be carefully considered by the Committee. An interview with (or by) a minimum of two Committee members will be conducted with the aspiring woman, either **in** person or by telephone. The Committee will carefully and prayerfully consider and vote regarding acceptance of the Candidate, with a favorable two-thirds majority vote required. The chair of the Committee must vote in favor of the candidate.

4) The three to twelve-month Formation process for Candidates preparing for consecration will begin after acceptance by the Committee. The Candidate is to be formed in the charism of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers as well as the Consecrated Way of Life and Lifestyle, especially focused on prayer, service and the holy way of living outlined in the Rule of Life. Formation is to assist the Candidate to become knowledgeable about the Association, Association history and Association ministries. Formation reading includes: i. Statutes and By-laws; ii. Rule of Life; iii. *Everyday Miracles of Lourdes* by Marlene Watkins, Foundress; and iv. *Bernadette Speaks: A Life of Saint Bernadette Soubirous in Her Own Words* by Pere Rene Laurentin. A Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow previously approved by the Committee will guide the Candidate through the formation process. This Guide must recommend the Candidate in order for the Candidate to complete formation and make her Consecration Vow.

5) Following the completion of the Formation Process, the Candidate Woman, her parish priest and Catholic Spiritual Director (if she has one) are to agree upon a date for Consecration close to, or most preferably on the Feast of St. Bernadette, April 16 for her holy model of unmarried consecrated life; the Candidate Widow and her parish priest or Catholic Spiritual Director are to agree upon a date for Consecration close to, or most preferably on the Day of the Holy Widowhood of Our Blessed Mother and the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19. A courtesy letter from the Ecclesial Authority of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers will be sent to the Candidate Woman's diocesan Bishop requesting his blessing for the Consecration and providing the date, place and other details.

The Candidate will profess her vow during the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Each year this vow can be renewed, and a signed form of renewal sent to the Bishop of Syracuse through the Office of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers. Should a Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow no longer be called or removed as a Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow or a member of the Association, she will not renew her vow for the upcoming year and is to notify her parish priest and the Bishop of Syracuse of her decision by submitting a written letter of resignation to the Lay Community of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows. The Diocesan Bishop will be notified by the Committee of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows.



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6) After the signed Prayer and Vow Consecration Form is received by the office of Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers, the newly Consecrated Woman or Consecrated Widow will be received and emolled in the membership of the Lay Community of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widow.

Annual Commitment and Evaluation of Life of Prayer, Service and Chastity

All members of the Lay Community of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows will renew their private vows each year, as follows:

- For Consecrated Women, on the day of or as close as possible to the Feast of St. Bernadette Soubirous, April 16th, as our patroness of unmarried Consecrated Women, and
- For Consecrated Widows, on the day of or as close as possible to the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19th, in honor of the Holy Widowhood of Mary, patroness of widows,

after attending the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Each member will submit a signed copy of the renewal of their private vows to the Committee of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows.

The renewal of the private vows will be accompanied by a letter from the Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows reporting on her life of prayer, service and chastity of the past year. The member should note any proposed changes in her Way of Life of prayer, service and chastity in the coming year. A letter of recommendation from her parish priest should accompany these documents.

The Committee of Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows will review all documents and vote on renewing the member, a simple majority vote in favor is required.



Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers

Approval of Ecclesial Authority

*I, Most Reverend Douglas J. Lucia, Bishop of Syracuse, New York,
approve the Private Association of the Faithful Rule of Life
for Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows
under Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers.*

*Annually, this rule will be vowed to or renewed by each member upon the
Consecration of Women and Consecration of Widows as stated in this Way of Life.*

*Each year on the day or nearest the 19th of March for Consecrated Widows and the 16th of
April/or Consecrated Women, following Holy Mass,
each member will make her vow
with her local parish priest, afterward submitting her letter of
Prayer and Vow to the Bishop of Syracuse.*

*+ Douglas J.
February*



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**Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers,
Public Association of the Faithful for
Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows,
Private Association of the Faithful,
Prayer and Vow Form**

*Our Lady of Lourdes, we entrust our lives into your Holy Life and Widowhood.
You are our perfect model of purity, prayer and service which you, so Full of Grace, offered
to God the Father during the life and death of your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and,
your beloved husband protector and most chaste spouse, St. Joseph.*

*Through the Holy Spirit, we unite our consecrated life to you
under your patronage as the Immaculate Conception of the Grotto;
Please grant that we may lovingly serve those in need of the grace of Lourdes
through Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers. Amen.*

"I, _____, vow to serve the sick and
suffering at Lourdes and at home, following the loving example of
St. Bernadette in simplicity, humility and obedience, according to the Rule
of Life for Consecrated Women and Consecrated Widows
and the Statutes/By-Laws of Our Lady of Lourdes
Hospitality North American Volunteers."

Consecrated Widow/Woman Signature: _____

Consecrated Widow/Woman Printed Name: _____

Date of Vow/Renewal: _____

Parish Priest's Signature: _____

Parish Priest's Printed Name: _____

Prayer and Vow Form are to be sent to:
Our Lady of Lourdes Hospitality North American Volunteers at
107 Michaels Avenue, Syracuse, NY 13208 or email to: Consecrated@LourdesVolunteers.org