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Tel: (315) 476-0026

Visit us online:
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

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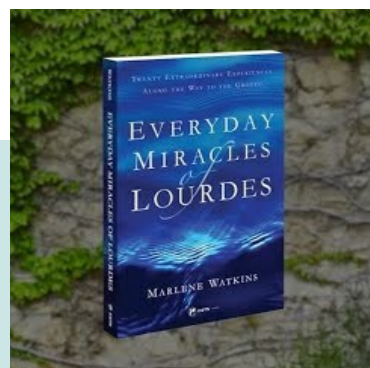
Our members continue to light the way!

Join us to share hope and joy across America and the world.



Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience™

We bring Lourdes to you! A perfect
prayerful event for any parish or
school wanting to draw closer to God
with Our Lady and St. Bernadette.



Book Events and Talks

“... so we can know the same
awesome God of the Gospels
is still our God today!”

~Marlene Watkins, Author
Everyday Miracles of Lourdes



My Lourdes Faith Journey Weekly on EWTN

Our self produced television series
hosted by Fr. Sean Grismer and
Marlene Watkins. Tune in each week
for stories of healing and conversion.

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



Planting Seeds of Love for the Next Twenty Years!

Scripture reminds us, “Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who causes the growth.” (1 Cor: 3:7) Praise be Jesus Christ, who not only inspired this humble apostolate but caused our tremendous growth over these past 21 years!

In 2023, we returned to Lourdes with eight pilgrimage groups, including one of our largest ever this October, with 187 pilgrims. This year alone, our amazing Andrea’s Wish donors generously gave over \$150,000 to make possible a life-changing pilgrimage for 56 pilgrims!

Our Lourdes Virtual Pilgrimage Experience guides went “out in the deep” to the Holy Land last November and this summer to Colombia, South America. Here in the United States, they crossed the country visiting 13 states. For the first time, Ukrainian translation was offered and Lourdes Water sent to Ukraine. Our Lourdes Water ministry has nearly doubled in two years; we expect to ship over 30,000 bottles of this liquid grace by year’s end.

Our mission of sharing the message of Lourdes has expanded in ways we never dreamed possible 21 years ago. Our foundress and author, Marlene Watkins, continues the book tour with our first book, *Everyday Miracles of Lourdes*. A new weekly virtual book club to discuss the chapters of the book has sprung forth. Our self-produced video series, My Lourdes Faith Journey is now a weekly Saturday morning show airing world-wide on EWTN!

We are especially thrilled to announce a very special spiritual fruit this year. On February 2, the Feast of the Presentation, the rule of life was approved for our new Consecrated Widows and Consecrated Women Community. Please pray for these holy women, as they keep us all in prayer.

Prayer is the foundation of all that we do. We now have over 500 members in our “Bernadette Brigade” group of prayer warriors. We join together for our monthly Family Rosary and offer a monthly Membership Mass. We collect and carry hundreds of prayer petitions to the Grotto in Lourdes. What a privilege!

St. Paul tells us, “Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully, will also reap bountifully.” (2 Cor 9:6) Guided by the Holy Spirit, we continue to plant bountiful seeds of love. Through the prayers of the Immaculate Conception, St. Bernadette and members like you, may God continue to multiply the harvest of these seeds for years to come!

WINTER 2023

ISSUE No. 13

Everyday Miracles of Lourdes

New award winning book!

Now available in English,
French, Braille and
eBook and audio formats.

My Lourdes Faith Journey

Now a weekly television
series on EWTN!

Tune in for stories of
healing and conversion!

Upcoming Feast Day

The Feast of Our Lady of
Lourdes is February 11.

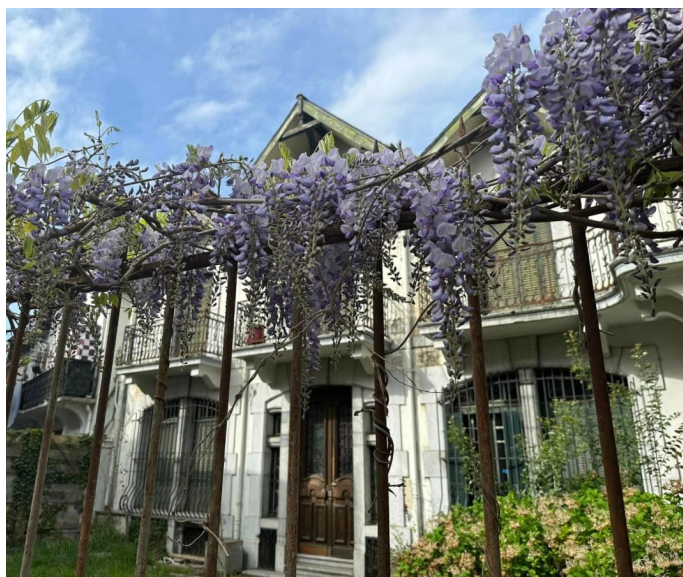
Send us your prayer
intentions to hand deliver
to the Grotto of Lourdes.



Become a Member!

www.LourdesVolunteers.org

(315) 476-0026



Thank you
to all our
members
making
“everyday
miracles”
possible!

Stars of Mary
Your monthly support
sustains our basic
operational expenses

Lourdes Legacy Giving
Leaves a legacy for the next
generations of
Lourdes Volunteers

Bernadette Brigade
Praying daily for
our association and
members

Lourdes Water Ministry
Sharing the liquid grace of
Lourdes upon request

Monthly Family Rosary
Gathering online in the
Grotto of our hearts
to unite our prayers

Join now!

(315) 476-0026

“Whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” 2 Corinthians 9:6

The Fruits of Pilgrimage and Service

The fruits of pilgrimage manifests itself in many beautiful but different ways, such as peace, healing in families or relationships and acceptance. We always say that no one leaves Lourdes empty-handed. Our Lady knows the grace each of us are in greatest need and she is generous. Just as grace upon grace continue to flow from the spring in the Grotto, so too the grace of pilgrimage flows from the hearts of pilgrims to those who we encounter and love at home.

It is our blessing to share with you two very special fruits of pilgrimage to Lourdes shared with us this year:

A calling to a holy vocation, inner healing and witness to the dignity of life: Volunteer 2014, Final Profession of Vows August 2023

“I was so moved by the way the sick were treated– at the front of the procession like the VIPs. In my heart, I knew this was a representation of the Kingdom of God, where the least are the greatest! I was so grateful for the opportunity to accompany pilgrims– and learned so much in the adoration chapel, as Our Lord was whispering to my heart ever more each day. By the end of the trip, the desire that had been growing in my heart for religious life was most powerful.”

Profound Peace: Tony, Pilgrim 2023

“I told friends and family I was on pilgrimage to Lourdes to find peace. I thought I could capture that peace in a few photographs, or drops of water, or a rosary purchased from a vendor in town. I thought that peace would be the absence of illness. In the end, that peace washed over me like a soft rain, day after day, wherever I looked, whatever I did... All these people volunteer, pay their own way to be here, to take care of us, to bring our needs to Lourdes, to our Blessed Mother, to Jesus Christ, Redeemer and King. Peace. I saw it in the face of my wife and daughter. At different times, their faces seemed to glow. Peace. I don’t know that I’ve been cured. But I know that I have been healed. A voice called my name and said so. The Voice of Peace, the Word Incarnate, cascades and cradles all who come here. Come to Lourdes and see for yourself.”

“Come to
Lourdes and see
for yourself.”

In 2024, we will have
pilgrimages to Lourdes
in June and October.

Apply today!

Guadalupe House– An American Oasis of Hospitality in Lourdes

Great news– the vision of Guadalupe House is starting to become a reality! This historic home in Lourdes overlooking the garden gate that Bernadette burst through, declaring to Père Peyramale the words of the Lady in the Grotto, “I am the Immaculate Conception,” will be undergoing significant renovations over the next several months with a target of opening before February 11, 2025, the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes.

Built in 1880, this home came to our humble apostolate through an interest-free mortgage from generous supporters. With the loan paid off, we have been seeking the right servants to help us with much-needed renovations. Our Lady has answered our prayers. Wonderful people have stepped up with the initial funding and expertise required for us to design and complete this important work!

The project itself involves two structures– Guadalupe House, a spacious 5,000 square foot home featuring eight bedrooms with full bathrooms en-suite, three half-baths, a welcome area, living room, a spacious kitchen with eating area, a full dining room, a meeting room that can also serve as a chapel, functional office space with modern communications and computer capabilities, laundry facilities, a storage area and a gracious courtyard. A smaller, garage-size structure, San Juan Diego, will be equipped with a small studio kitchen/living/dining area and a bedroom with full bath to accommodate priests or two guests who require the privacy of a separate dwelling. Renovations include comprehensive exterior and interior work, building mechanicals and roof, as the home is in much need of repair and restoration.

Please stay tuned and visit our website for more details on how you can help us finish this once-in-a-lifetime project. We have been blessed with very generous donors pledging \$225,000 in matching funds for contributions to Guadalupe House made on or before February 11, 2024, so please make a generous donation today! We need to raise these additional dollars in order to ensure funding is in place to complete the project. In the later stages of construction, we will need volunteers to help with finishing work such as interior painting and landscaping. Most of all, we need your prayers to help make our house a home!

NEW Community of Consecrated Widows & Women

On February 2, 2023, Bishop Douglas J. Lucia decreed the Rule of Life for Consecrated Widows and Consecrated Women. In March and April of this year, four members made their vows to become our first Consecrated Women and Widows. What a beautiful gift to our apostolate!

We now welcome other members to prayerfully discern joining them in a life of prayer and service to our mission, Our Lord and His Blessed Mother.

Contact our NY office (315) 476-0026 or visit our website for details. www.LourdesVolunteers.org



Everyday Miracles of Lourdes by Marlene Watkins

Our first book was released in March this year. Published by EWTN Publishing and Sophia Institute Press, the book has sold over 14,000 copies so far. After launching the book live from Lourdes in February, Marlene traveled to Paris, England, Ireland, Scotland, NY, PA, NJ, FL and CA to share these stories of faith and healing.

Author Marlene Watkins graciously donated all proceeds of the book sales to our apostolate to fund further evangelization projects. A weekly book club began meeting in September to further explore each chapter.

Now also available in French and Braille as well as in eBook and audio formats. Spanish coming soon!

