



LA LETTRE

Official Newsletter of the HNDL - Lourdes



Respect for the Person

Dear friends, brothers and sisters in Hospitalité,

Respect for the person must be at the heart of our mission as hospitaliers.

“My neighbour is another me”

“In so far as you did this to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me”

(Mt 25,40).

Within the Sanctuary of Lourdes, our immediate mission is to welcome all pilgrims, particularly those who are sick, disabled or suffering. Whatever our service is, whatever our duties happen to be (at the station, the airport, the baths, at one of the Accueils, in front of the Grotto, during the ceremonies or processions...) our attitude as hospitaliers must always be suffused with respect and calm, and always lit up by a smile.

Our charity must have a smile on its face.

To respect someone is to be attentive to what they are feeling, to act with consideration and to take care of them.

For a Hospitalier, respect for the person means:

Welcoming someone with joy. We are happy to meet them, we were expecting them.

Speaking to the person **calmly** even if he or she is on edge, in a state of panic or angry.

Never touching anyone roughly, for example, grabbing them by the arm or moving them out of the way **in a brusque manner**.

Seeing in that person a **brother or sister, our shared humanity**.

In conclusion, let us read again what **Monsignor Théas**, the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, wrote to hospitaliers in 1969, 50 years ago:

“The Lourdes Hospitalier, as is the wish of the Immaculate Virgin, must be a specialist in love for one’s neighbour, driven by the love of God”.

United in prayer, please be assured of my devoted and faithful friendship.



Daniel PEZET Président de l’HNDL

LATEST NEWS

Some news about the “Notre-Dame de Lourdes” accommodation centre

On 21 June 2019 the inauguration and blessing of the “Notre Dame de Lourdes” accommodation centre took place.

Our President, Daniel Pezet, thanked all those invited and reminded us of the reasons which led us to undertake a property venture of this kind.

The Rector of the Sanctuary, Père André Cabes, accompanied by Père Brito, Chaplain General of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes, blessed the premises.

This historic moment for us concluded with a drinks reception in the dining room.



Last August we were able to welcome the French National Pilgrimage and respond to their needs.

To do this we left them the St. Michel self-service restaurant in its entirety, including the kitchens, the cafeteria and the tower.

To look after our own hospitaliers, we re-commissioned the restaurant of the former Notre Dame de Lourdes hotel.

We were able to accomplish this task thanks to the efficiency of our chefs who were able to get the kitchens up and running again and thanks also to the serving staff who were very effective in making sure everyone was served in a very convivial atmosphere.



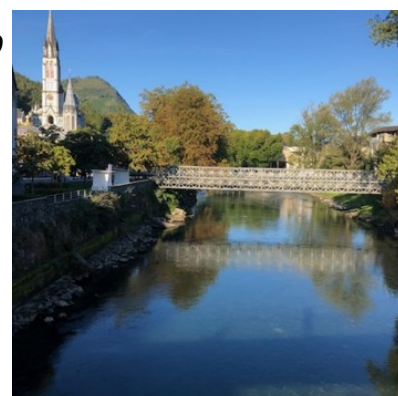
We spent five exceptional days, but we will not be able to continue like this despite the many requests we have received.

In effect, we must not be seen to be competing in any way with the hotels in Lourdes.

Henri de Watrigant
Responsible of the Saint-Michel Service

“Let us walk together, looking after each other, but also looking after Creation, the home that we share.”

Pope Francis
24 September 2016



LATEST NEWS (continued)

The Family Area is now open

In partnership with the volunteers of the Little House of Bernadette, the Family Area of the Baths opened its doors this summer.



Its Aim

As well as creating an area beside the Baths dedicated to families, the aim is to explain the meaning of the act of bathing in the Piscines, or making the gesture of water, as much for the benefit of parents as for their children. It is a way of accompanying the parents in their task of passing on the faith to their children.

How does it work?

Parents and their children are welcomed at the Little House of Bernadette from 9.30 a.m. to 3.00 p.m. A group is formed. Everyone wears a little badge. Two volunteers accompany the children to the Family Area, where a 7-minute cartoon on the Message of Lourdes is shown. This is followed by a short period, part playtime, part catechesis, in which pictures are used to explain about the Lourdes spring and what the water represents. Finally, the group is bathed by hospitaliers of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes.

How many people come?

Every day, the Family Area receives between 30 and 50 people.

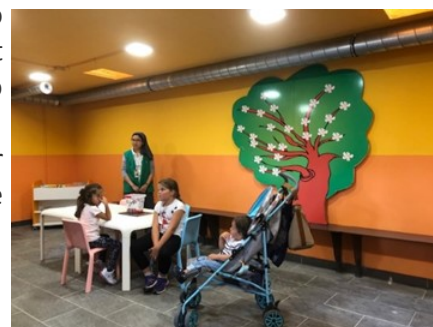
What is the fundamental message for parents and their children?

Water is vital to biological life. The water of Baptism opens for us the door to spiritual life. To bathe in the Piscines is to express our desire for a new baptism, a new alliance and friendship with Jesus.

When you are thirsty, you drink water. On a spiritual level, it is Jesus who gives us to drink (Cana, the Good Samaritan...). Therefore, the spring at Lourdes is Jesus, whom the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus, has shown to us.

Water cleans wherever there is mud, wherever there is dirtiness. In our spiritual lives, dirtiness is called sin and, to wash away sin, there is the sacrament of reconciliation.

Water is therefore the sign of our spiritual life, the sign of our desire to live.



Getting to know Lourdes better: What is a procession?

One can define in brief terms a procession as follows: *"It is to go from one place to another in order to do something there."* Putting this in terms of religious language, the meaning would be: *"To go religiously from one place, which, if not holy is at least important, to a place which is holy or important, in order to perform a religious act there."*

In accordance with the Church's long tradition, the Bishops' protocol of 1998 says the same thing: *"Public processions are solemn supplications which the people of God make under the clergy's direction, while proceeding in an orderly fashion, above all from one sacred place to another."*

Extracts from "Lourdes en Procession" by Père Régis-Marie de La Teyssonnière (éditions Artège)

The young people of Youcat in our Sanctuary

The young people of Youcat(*) got to know our Hospitalité this summer by doing a first year stage (find out about this very beautiful project thanks to this article by Anthony S. Farah from Lebanon)

« Come, you have to know what you believe in. You must know your faith with the same precision as an IT specialist knows the operating system of a computer” Pope Benedict XVI, Preface to YOUCAT.

Our world of today distances itself from the faith of the Church, above all young people. They are concerned about plenty of other things (the media, work, ...). They have forgotten the source of their life, the purpose of their existence and they look for how to fill their lives and find answers to their questions.



What must one do to keep hope alive for our young people?

And how do we lead them to have confidence again in their Church? In his Apostolic Letter **“Motu Proprio : Sanctuarium in Ecclesia”**, published in 2017, Pope Francis invites the great sanctuaries of the world not to content themselves just with offering pilgrims tourist visits and popular devotion, but also to encourage a new evangelisation, so that pilgrims might take something back with them from their visit, a little piece of knowledge that opens the door to the study of catechism and a deepening of their faith.

So the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes and the YOUCAT Foundation set to work to respond to the Pope’s call.

Over three months, an active and energetic group of international volunteers, from different countries and languages (Germany, Colombia, Lebanon, Australia, Poland and Austria), carried out a pilot project of evangelisation in the heart of the Sanctuary.

Lots of materials (study guides, catechism games, Youcat books, ...) were made available with a varied programme adapted for each age group: days for families and children, evenings for young people, evangelisation workshops, and individual meetings with pilgrims and groups passing through.

The approach of the New Evangelisation is therefore to start by sitting down with people and in that way seek to lead the men, women, young people and children of our time to Jesus and their encounter with Him. To sit down and talk requires time, which in turn allows you to respect, patiently, each one’s personal journey.

The encounter with Jesus is the key to the New Evangelisation, the final Message starts there: “Faith depends entirely on the relationship that we establish with the person of Jesus, who is the first to meet us.” (Pope Benedict XVI; Message to the People of God, from the Synod of Bishops for the New Evangelisation)

Anthony S. Farah
Lebanon

(*) YOUCAT is the Catechism of the Catholic Church for young people. The most important elements of the Faith are summarised briefly and in a comprehensible manner in the form of questions and answers. YOUCAT has been approved by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome.

“I lay before you, my God, all the desires of my heart;

I reduce them to one only, which is to obey You and love You in all.”

Saint Bernadette

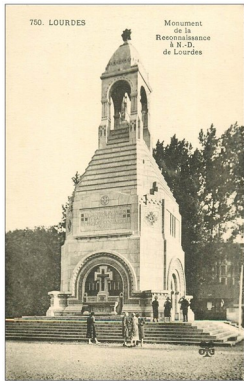


How well do we know our Sanctuary?

The Monument of Peace

In the foreground of the photo on the right, this monument, first called the Monument of Remembrance and later the Monument of Peace, was built in 1920 in the aftermath of the First World War. It was demolished in 1956 to make way for the construction of the Saint Pious X underground basilica.

The walls inside were covered with **thousands of plaques** bearing the names of soldiers from every nation killed in the Great War.



In 1947, Bishop Théas dedicated the monument to the Pax Christi Association, a prayer movement that was one of the prime movers of French-German reconciliation.

The Pax Christi Chapel in the St. Pious X Basilica serves as a reminder of this monument, which was situated directly above it. The chapel is used as a reserve for consecrated hosts whenever there are large celebrations taking place. It can also be used by pilgrims for personal prayer. On one of the mosaics on the wall is depicted a seven-branched candelabrum, one of the symbols of Judaism; Bishop Théas was a courageous supporter of the Jews during the war and was named “Just among the Nations” by the State of Israel.



The Queen of Mothers

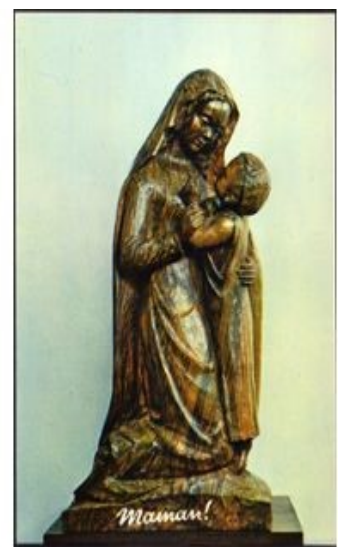
“...You will contemplate this Mother who tends to the little injury of her Child.

You will learn from Her to tend to every misery, every injury, every wound.

You will look at this Child who, standing on tip-toe, offers his injured finger to the tenderness of his Mother and who teaches us also to reach up with all our hearts to the Virgin Mary, whatever happens or whatever has happened...

Meditating on this, everyone will find comfort and the strength to connect once more with God and with other souls...”

Bishop Théas



J. Herbert Coeffin

Oratoire des Sœurs de Nevers
à Lourdes

The Lord has taken them by the hand (Pope Francis)

Saint Bernadette Service

Brigitte CHABRAN

Marie Saint Frai Service

Edgard ANTAKI

Marie Dominique CHALVIDAN, wife of Pierre

The father of Joaquinne MAHY

Notre Dame Service

Michèle GURDAK

Fausta MUSSI

Anna ZOCCHI

The father of Debbie GILLION

The Aunt of Hélène FOY

Saint Jean Baptiste Service

Teresa ACCARDI

Paule COSSON

Jacqueline ROCHER

Saint Joseph Service

Josep Maria CLARAMUNT LACUEVA

Paolo FASSOLA

Gérard CASTANET

Jacques LLOBERA

Francisco Jose NIETO

Claude TRESARRIEU

Andreas ZINGG

Giuseppe Vercelli

The wife of Jean BIGNARDI

The mother of Frédéric BOUCHEIX

The son of Edoardo DI VIRGILIO

The mother of Maurizio PIACENTINO

The wife of André SENNE

The brother of James WEIR

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