



Saint Joseph NEWS LETTER



N°1 – July 2018

Why a NEWS LETTER for St JOSEPH ?

During the Saint Joseph Service Council meeting on Saturday February 10th last, several councillors put forward the idea of creating a means of communication both for and between HNDL Hospitaliers (and Hospitalières) which could be more frequent and also shorter and more effective. Hence this News Letter, the first issue of which you see here. Its purpose is to inform Hospitaliers/ères of new developments and we can also use it to share reminders about what is already expected of us in St Joseph Service, in HNDL and in the Sanctuary.

In future editions it must serve as a vehicle for exchange between the Hospitaliers/ères in St Joseph Service and perhaps even the HNDL. Of course, not everything will be published, depending on deadlines, themes, etc. and on content (no negative criticism of a person or a group will be published for example),

But if you would like to respond to an article that is of interest to you, if there's another subject close to your heart, if you would like to share with others in the Service an experience or something you have witnessed then

please send us a short article (200 words maximum). You can email it to resp-st-joseph@wanadoo.fr - in French if possible but if not we can always get it translated. It may not always be possible to publish your contributions but we will acknowledge receipt of them and, if necessary, tell you why they cannot be included in the News Letter.

Let us hope that this News Letter enjoys a long life!

Bernard GLADIN
In charge of St Joseph Service

WHAT'S NEW IN THE SANCTUARY

On Wednesday April 4th Mgr BROUWET inaugurated the new awning outside the Baths and the Chapels of Light (which have replaced the candle burners), passing through the Way of the Cross for Sick Pilgrims, which has been moved. So ends the programme of work on the "The Pilgrim's Way in Lourdes" that started with the development of the space around the Grotto, then the Chapels of Light, the Gesture of Water and the new wall of water -fountains and finally the Baths.

On Saturday July 7th Mgr BROUWET also opened the waiting room for children at the Baths, conceived and funded by HNDL and whose concept of 'multi-media education' has been devised in conjunction with the Vatican Foundation for the Family. This room will require further modification (access, sound) to be carried out as and when future funding allows.

Several appointments within the Sanctuary will have an impact on St Joseph Service :

- Père MARCO, a Capuchin chaplain originally from Sardinia, is now in charge of all pastoral animation

between the Grotto and the Baths. Bernard GLADIN has met with Père MARCO who, after taking time for analysis and reflexion, will meet again with those in charge of HNDL to clarify our mission and duties in each area.

- Pierre ADIAS has now taken on responsibility for "Services and Site Management", in other words he will be in charge of all the Sanctuary's practical organisation "on the ground", principally the larger pilgrimages and events.
- Jean-Michel VEYSSEYRE has been appointed "in charge of ground operations" and so, effectively, will be in charge of all volunteers in the Sanctuary.

Other employees or chaplains have been appointed or confirmed in their posts, including Don Jean-Xavier SALEFRAN with whom we liaise very closely on Ceremonies.

We owe it to ourselves to have the best possible relations with these players because we have to work with them for our Mission in the Sanctuary.

BRETELLES

But what are all those people doing in Lourdes with leather straps on?



As brancardiers in the Sanctuary of Lourdes, we wear Bretelles as a sign of Service. Amazing isn't it, in the 21st century, spending a week or two in Lourdes as a volunteer, coming here to serve ... When we begin we put on the Bretelles – and we *wear* them with a certain pride! But humility soon follows as it's our Bretelles which *carry* us, which support us throughout the day from 7 a.m. at the Grotto to the prairie then on to the baths, to the churches and finally in the evening to the torchlight procession. Yes our Bretelles support us, transport us and transform us.

Firstly, they are a sign of recognition between us, and a sign of our docility, our readiness to listen and conduct ourselves under the sign of St. Bernadette. But for the pilgrims, they are a sign of availability. What miraculous joy a brancardier feels when a pilgrim asks for help! Bretelles save lost souls in Lourdes and they help Faith to grow.

Bretelles are weighty. In the old days they had to bear the weight of the sick pilgrims' stretchers all the way from the train station down to the Grotto. They linked brancardier (stretcher-bearer) and sick person together in 40 minutes of saving penance. They bound the suffering of the brancardier to the suffering of the sick, **united** as if in a heavenly marriage. They marked his shoulders with the weight of **generosity**. Originally made of leather, they left a stronger imprint in the helper's skin. Every brancardier feels that weight when he removes them on his last day ... He feels lighter... But he realises something is missing : that constancy he has had during a week spent at the feet of Mary.

Penitence-Penitence-Penitence

Of course, Bretelles signify **Service**, freely given in Lourdes by over four thousand volunteers who come for a week or two each year to the Club Med *par excellence* (that's Med as in Meditation!) In the *piscines*

you have very special pools, there's the prairie, the way of the cross, and at the Grotto a special kind of "caving" ... descent into the soul, plunging into the water and climbing in faith. "Go drink from the spring and wash yourself there".

Bretelles unite people of all nationalities, cultures and denominations! People from Burgundy and Bordeaux getting together to talk about ... water! Sicilians discussing the Baths with Englishmen, Chinese singing along with Indians! Even under steady rainfall, soaking us to the skin, the Bretelles unite us. And then, our service over, we get together over a glass of Jurançon.



Bretelles signify **Respect** for the sick, **Gentleness** as we carry them, **Discretion** as we speak to them, **Delicacy** in the way we look at them. Yes, here in Lourdes, the sick give us the strength to carry them. The joy of life, health is in their eyes. Here in Lourdes it's the sick who care for us. The Miracle of the Bretelles : no one knows how or why but after a week the brancardier is set up in in good health for the rest of year. Can you explain why there are "old'uns" still in service at the baths at over 77 years of age, youngsters who can stay on their feet for five hours in front of the Grotto organising the blue *voitures* and hearing 4 masses? Look at the smile that they have and you will better understand the role of the bretelles.

Yes, the Lourdes Bretelles, with the look of Bernadette and the voice of Mary, help us to pray. It's amazing that something as commonplace as that can have such important spiritual force. These straps, that today no longer serve any practical purpose, give us a reassuring joy and strength. They give us the faith of the Pilgrim.

St Bernadette used to say "I am the broom used by the Blessed Virgin". Dare we say "I am the straps used by St Bernadette" ?

Written by a first-year stagiaire. who has been "kept on the right track" * by St Bernadette.

(The writer used a play on words here involving "bretelles" which cannot easily be translated into English !)*

RED BADGES

Airport Security Passes (TCAs - « Titres de Circulation Aéroportuaires » - or, as they are commonly known in HNDL, "Red Badges") are issued by the Préfecture (the County Council Office) of the Hautes-Pyrenees department and subject to specific controls, about which the St Joseph Council feels it would be a good idea to remind you :

- Red Badges are awarded only to specific named persons by the Préfecture through the Airport Security Service upon completion of a half-day training course, which can be done only after a request in the proper manner has been drawn up by Marie-Paule and sent via internet on behalf of HNDL. The same applies for renewals.
- Red Badges can only be issued, under the auspices of HNDL, to its recognised members (i.e. Hospitalier/ères whose membership fees are paid up to date), who understand French perfectly and who are able to make themselves understood in that language (orders and emergency announcements in the Airport are in French).
- HNDL is required to guarantee that Red Badges are kept secure and only issued for reasons of service. While in use these badges must be kept by the holder (and only the holder) on their person at all times along with proof of identity; outside periods of service it is imperative that

Red Badges be returned to HNDL and kept in a safe or locked cupboard with a signed register recording the input-output of badges and a list kept up-to-date in real time.

- It is, of course, strictly forbidden to take these badges home and especially outside France (non-observation of this restriction is part of the Penal Code and carries fines of thousands of euros for the wrongdoer personally - as well as for HNDL - and could leave us liable to lose the right to issue TCAs in future).
- Badges coming to the end of their validity must be returned to the authorities by the person in charge of St Joseph Service and only by post (communication to be drawn up and recorded by Marie-Paule).
- Reminder : Hospitalier/ères holding a Green Badge (a TCA issued provisionally for only one day) must obligatorily be accompanied by a Red Badge holder whenever they are in a regulated area.

These TCAs of both kinds enable us to welcome pilgrimages, and above all sick and disabled pilgrims, even allowing us onto the aeroplanes. Let us make good use of them and respect the rules so that our mission can continue.

ON THE MISSION and EXEMPLARITY OF HOSPITALIERS

Without wanting to be moralistic, and above all being wary of lecturing, we believe that we must, from time to time, remind ourselves what is our Mission in LOURDES.

We are, for the most part, Christians and Catholics ; let us always keep in mind that we are, first and foremost, pilgrims ourselves, coming to Lourdes to make an act of faith, to refresh our spiritual life. To do this, we come in SERVICE. Serving our brothers and sisters in need, who may have difficulty accomplishing that journey of faith, which is easy, physically at least, for us. Serving the structures that accompany these sick or disabled pilgrims, their pilgrimages and the Hospitalier/ères that comprise them. And, lastly, serving the Sanctuary that welcomes them.

This Mission leads us to welcome the pilgrims at the station, at the airport, at the Accueil Notre Dame and at the Accueil Saint-Frai but also in the sanctuary. Let us never forget that ours is often the first face, the first smile of welcome that pilgrims of all kinds might glimpse on arrival or during their stay. That is why our appearance, our bearing and our conduct must be exemplary.

- We cannot welcome those pilgrims without a smile, the smile of Hospitalité, without a word of welcome, the

welcome of Hospitalité

- We cannot help pilgrims in the Sanctuary without a decent and « recognisable » dress code to help, guide and « serve » them.
- We cannot fulfil our mission without displaying exemplary behaviour worthy of HNDL – equally important in our words, our appearance and our approach to the pilgrims.
- We have a duty to apply to ourselves that which we ask of others. For example silence at the Grotto (don't let your standards slip into sloppiness at the Grotto ; don't have group discussions in the conch when there is a place where instructions can be passed on out of sight). Avoid unseemly behaviour during processions & ceremonies (always be courteous, even if you have to stop someone doing something). Be able to slip into the background when required, e.g. allowing pilgrims time for their act of faith at the baths (it's their special time – not yours !)
- Let us never forget that, wherever we are, we represent the Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes and the Hospitalier/ères which make it up. Let's be happy and proud to serve in HNDL, and respectful also of the Hospitalier/ères with whom we serve.

A HANDBOOK (“WHITE PAPER”?) FOR CEREMONIES

In total cooperation with Don Jean - Xavier SALEFRAN some technical notes have been drawn up (and can be modified as and when needed). These notes, written in several languages, are available in the Bureau at the “Accueil Hospitaliers” desk or in digital form from the PC in the St Joseph Councillors’ office.

They concern :-

- International Masses and the Grotto
- The Eucharistic Procession and the Torchlight Marian procession

A “Ceremonies” booklet has been uploaded onto the website www.hospitalite-nd-lourdes.com (click on the “services” tab and then Saint Joseph). This booklet summarizes all the provisions established for the running of the ceremonies, as well as containing clear explanatory diagrams. This booklet is available on the website, the technical notes are available to « chefs de service » at the Bureau and we urge all those with positions of responsibility to consult them.

BERNADETTE MORIAU (the 70th person to be miraculously cured) speaks to HNDL



Great emotion and great joy on Wednesday May 9th at the end of the engagement ceremony. With characteristic simplicity Sister Bernadette Moriau, the 70th person to be miraculously cured, gave her testimony to the Hospitaliers gathered in St Joseph’s Chapel.



COMING UP IN THE NEWS LETTER

- “Conseiller de service”, “Responsable de service”, “Chef d’équipe “ – what does it all mean ?
- The Accueils Notre-Dame et Saint Frai – services to discover and develop
- Night duty at the Grotto (between 8 – 11pm)

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