

Lettre de l'Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes



May 2019

Hospitalier and Pilgrim

Dear Hospitalité friends, brothers and sisters,

I am always happy to see the joy of hospitaliers when they arrive in Lourdes. The joy of rushing to the Grotto "to say hello to Mary", the joy of meeting hospitalier friends once more and, finally, the joy of being a pilgrim again.

I am a pilgrim because I am on the move. I have become master of my own time again. Time to live a powerful spiritual experience, time to meet God, time to listen to His word.

Just as on the 'Camino' to Compostella, being a pilgrim in Lourdes leads to beautiful encounters. Other pilgrims, who will touch me with their witness, their suffering, their courage, their searching, their humility. In short, I will open myself up to God, I will open myself up to others.

And then there is my service as a hospitalier, the service of others. Giving, giving again, always giving and receiving so much. Feeling that sensation of wholeness, another word for happiness, complete fulfilment. My life as a Hospitalier-Pilgrim is one of contentment, it has meaning.

In prayerful union, please be assured of my devotion and faithful friendship.

Daniel PEZET

The Patron Saint of Pilgrims and the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes.



Saint Benoît Joseph Labre (1748-1783).

"God awaits you elsewhere". With these words, Benoît Labre, the son of farmers originally from Amettes (Pas de Calais), was turned down several times for the monastic life. Then, at the age of 21, he set off on his travels from shrine to shrine, a knapsack on his back and a crucifix round his neck. He took to the road to find out what God wanted of him and, in his abandonment and detachment from life, he came to understand that his vocation was precisely to be a pilgrim.

Here are a few words that **Monsignor Théas** addressed to hospitaliers in **1969, 50 years ago**:
*"When as a hospitalier you find a real conflict between charity and the rules, without a shadow of a doubt you must sacrifice the rules and **let charity prevail**... As it is the wish of the Immaculate Virgin, the Hospitalier of Lourdes must be a **specialist in love for one's neighbour**, spurred on by the love of God."*



Hospitalité News

Some Figures

Results of the financial year to 31 October 2018

Net deficit: - €44,351 (an improvement compared to 2017: - €70,142)

Items to note:

Reduction in turnover: 1.2% (- €22,000)

Marked improvement in operating costs:

Size of payroll down by €46,000 (no redundancies, better management of recruitment)

Reduction of €60,000 in purchasing costs incurred by the St. Michel Self-service (change in supply management working practices)

Significant increases:

Gas and Electricity = + €45,000 (late billing and energy losses in some of our premises...); travel expenses for Councils: + €10,000

Renting of hotel rooms in Lourdes to mitigate the effects of closing Benoît Labre: €12,000.



The History of our Hospitalité

On the 18th April we had the pleasure of welcoming to our Hospitalité Madame Martine Baratier, accompanied by her husband, and Madame Chantal Gilbert.



They are the granddaughters of **Emile Christophe**. President of the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes from 1905 to 1922, he was a member of the Hospitalité since its creation in 1885. He was in turn Secretary and Vice-President, before being appointed President. His term of office was particularly fruitful, despite the events that he had to deal with, such as the separation of Church and State, the celebration of the 50th anniversary of



the apparitions and the 1914-1918 war. His vice-president was Count Etienne de Beauchamp.

Sayings of Saint Bernadette:

"I would always have enough good health, but never enough love."



News from the Notre-Dame Service

“Blessed are the poor, for the Kingdom of God is theirs” (Luke 6, 20).

This is the theme of the year 2019.

On 11 February 1858, the Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette, the humblest and poorest of all the young girls in Lourdes. Throughout all her life she would be a model of humility, suffused with a deep and steadfast faith.

Whether we are hospitalières or stagiaires, we all have need of each other. May the old hands take the newcomers under their wing, accompanying them in their duties and leading them to discover the wonders of Lourdes. Let's carry out our duties in a kindly way, looking after each other as well as everyone whom we have the joy to meet.

When not on duty, we have some free time which we can use in spiritual retreat:

- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the chapel,
- Daily Mass
- a bath at the Piscines
- confession at the Chapel of Reconciliation
- prayer at the Grotto
- Blessed Sacrament or torchlight procession
- praying the Rosary at the Grotto or Nazareth



Nazareth is a meeting place for hospitalières. It is a place for prayer, for meeting others and for sharing. In short: we have this place at our disposal – let's bring it to life!

“Oh Jesus, give me, I pray, the bread of humility and the bread of charity.” St. Bernadette.

Anne de Loynes

How the personal data of members of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes is managed

In accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which came into force on 25 May 2018, you have the right of access to, and modification or deletion of, the information which we hold about you. You can exercise this right by sending us a request at:

hospitalite-lourdes@wanadoo.fr.

For your information, the personal data that the Association holds is only used to send you, by post or email, the confirmation of your stage registration, to bill you for your stay (annual subscription, meal tickets and possibly accommodation) and to send you information about the life of the Association (the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes Newsletter).

This data is held and kept up to date by the Secretariat of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes, and the hospitaliers of the Saint-Michel Service, using an administration software system. The only personal data which we request and use are your surnames, first names, addresses and, if necessary, your email address. **None of this data will ever be passed on to a third party without your permission.**

How well do you know our Sanctuary?

One of the statues on the North ramp (i.e. the Gave side) is that of St. Hyacinth. Look out for the inscription.

Born in 1185 in Silesia, he became a priest in Krakow, Poland and joined the Dominican order after meeting Saint Dominic in Rome. He founded a number of monasteries in Poland, Prussia, Lithuania and Russia.

Around 1230, Father Hyacinth was celebrating Mass in one of the churches in the town of Kiev, when he was warned that a Tartar army had encircled the town and was about to attack. He finished Communion in a dignified fashion and quickly picked up the ciborium with the consecrated hosts as he left.

Legend has it that he then heard a woman's voice rising from the back of the church:

"Hyacinth, you save my son, but me, you leave behind?"

The voice came from a stone statue of the Virgin Mary. Without the slightest hesitation, even though he was terrified, Hyacinth picked up the statue, which was very heavy but which felt light to him. He fled the town and escaped from the Tartars.

So Saint Hyacinth is often depicted holding a monstrance with the Blessed Sacrament and a statue of the Virgin Mary in his arms.

He died in 1257 and was canonised in 1594.



Good news for the town of Lourdes

In 2018, the hotels in Lourdes recorded 2,191,171 nights, compared with 2,005,732 in 2017, an increase of 9% on the previous year. *Note that this is the first year in the past 10 years that Lourdes hotels have recorded an increase in numbers.*

This increase, recorded since February, continued throughout the season with June being an excellent month (+17%), due in particular to the veterans' pilgrimage. Having the Tour de France here gave rise to another peak in numbers in July (+16%) and served to reinforce the sporting image of Lourdes in the eyes of the world. It was the stage of the race that attracted the best audience on French television, with nearly 5 million viewers.



The increase in hotel numbers in 2018 is due to **a strong rise in French visitor nights (+29%)**. At the same time, **the number of foreign visitor nights only rose by 1%**.

<https://hndl1885.com/>

I invite you to have a look at this lovely site that our friend Collette has created:

"Life and service with Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes".

True, it's in English, but it is very good tool for giving information about, and indeed promoting, our Hospitalité.

Don't hesitate to use the hashtag **#HNDL1885** during the season when you're on social networks. Collette also is on Instagram and has a Facebook page that you can find using 'HNDL1885'.



“The Lord has taken them by the hand”

Pope Francis

Sainte Bernadette Service

Franz VON LOE

The granddaughter of Colette MARIOTTE

Marie Saint Frai Service

Rosanna MARANGONI VERGANI

Maire CHANNER

Gianna GIANELLA, wife of Ivo COMELLO – Marie

Saint Frai and Saint Joseph Services

The father of Leila RAITERI

The mother of Danielle SIRLEY

Notre Dame Service

Josie SOUBERVIE

Carmen FRANCHI

Michelle QUEMPEL

Angeles LOPEZ ROS

Albine DUBRULLE

Antonietta LANZAROTI

Anna Maria BUFFA, mother of Andreina VISETTI

Saint Jean Baptiste Service

Denise RIGAUD

Janine GUITET

Anne VICKERS

Nathalie PINGET

Grazia BARONE

Anne DARDE

The husband of Liz BYRNE

Saint Michel Service

Arsène CHAILLOU

The wife of Louis MONSEGU

The mother of Pierre PERROMAT

The brother of Henri de WATRIGANT

Saint Joseph Service

Pierre-Yves HAMON

Yves GOMANE

Joseph STEBENET

Patrick de MONTGOLFIER

Jean-Jacques PONS

Claude PILLET

Domenico SOLA

Terry SCAHILL

Augustus FALLER

Nicolas BRULE

Nicola MORRA

Jacques MARCEL

Sean DUNPHY

Jacques CORNET

Jesus LOPEZ VIDAL

Jean-Louis BRETTE

Rolf SCHULTE

François FOUCAULT

Giampiero MARONI

Jean Marie BARTHECOY

The wife of Jacques DORSI

The mother of Paschal BLAKE

The mother of James MURTAGH

The mother of Michel CHATAGNON

The mother of Adrien LORICOURT

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