



LA LETTRE

Official Newsletter of the HNLDL - Lourdes Official



Let us carry the smile of Mary

During the third apparition on February 18th 1858, to Bernadette who had again asked her name, Mary smiled and replied *"That is not necessary"*

On September 15th in Lourdes, Pope Benedict XVI also spoke about Mary's smile :

"In the very simple manifestation of tenderness that we call a smile, we grasp that our sole wealth is the love God bears us, which passes through the heart of her who became our Mother. To seek this smile, is first of all to have grasped the gratuitousness of love; it is also to be able to elicit this smile through our efforts to live according to the word of her Beloved Son, just as a child seeks to elicit its mother's smile by doing what pleases her".

He adds *"Mary's smile is a source of living water"*.

He concludes *"The service of charity that you offer is a Marian service. Mary entrusts her smile to you, so that you yourselves may become, in faithfulness to her son, springs of living water. Whatever you do, you do in the name of the Church, of which Mary is the purest image. May you carry her smile to everyone! "*

At a time when any restriction quickly generates misunderstanding, annoyance, even anger, where authority is often challenged, and where many judge without knowing and condemn without appeal ...

Resorting to a simple smile may appear trivial.

And yet, by our mission of welcoming, that is what we are committed to doing.

For a hospitalier, carrying the smile of Mary means listening to others, opening ones heart and witnessing to ones faith.

As the 2021 season comes to an end, much better than it started and with the 2022 season looking promising, I wish you a very good winter. Let us continue our mission as hospitaliers at home, let us be "missionaries", that is to say, "envoys", let us carry the smile of Mary

Take care of yourselves.

With the assurance of my friendship and total dedication

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Daniel PEZET

President of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes



Some news

1) Reception of two new buses



On July 22nd HNDL organised an event to mark in a suitable way the reception of our third Citaro Mercedes bus and also our Jumpy Citroën minibus.

In the presence of the Mayor of Lourdes, the Rector et numerous other guests, the aim was essentially to thank our generous donors.

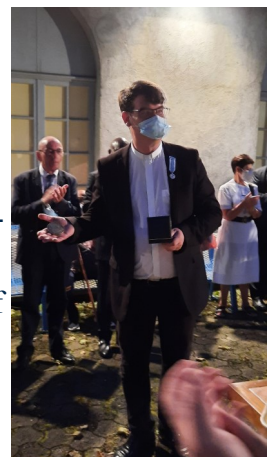


2) Departure of Mgr Xavier d'Arodes

Monsignor Xavier d'Arodes, vice-Rector of our Sanctuary left Lourdes this summer and has returned to Toulouse.

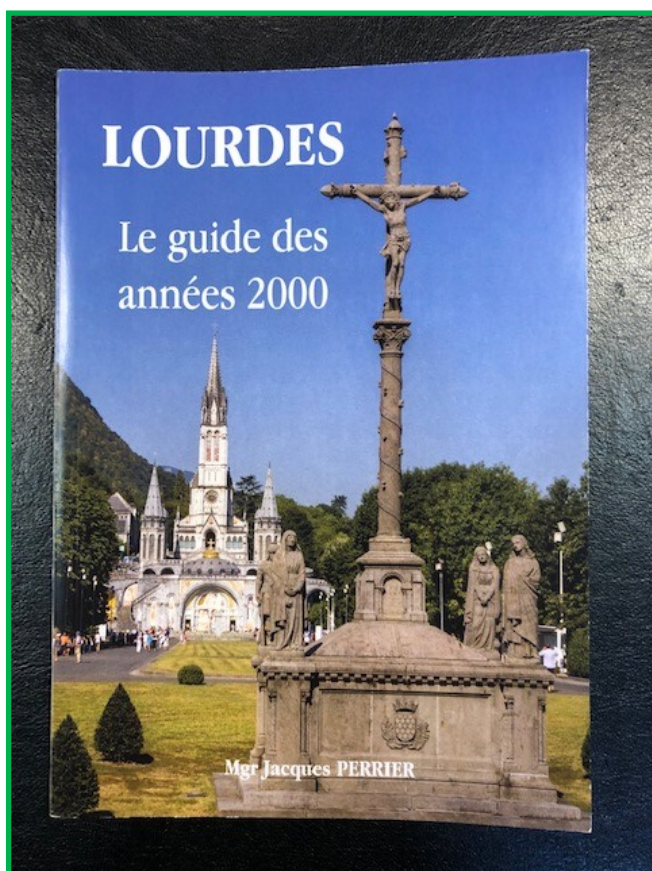
Before his departure, on Wednesday August 11th 2021, we invited him to be chief concelebrant at the HNDL Mass in Saint Joseph's Chapel.

After that, in the gardens of the Foyer, it was time for speeches and presents.



We recalled with emotion how he has always been for our Hospitality a sincere, benevolent friend, attentive, animated by a strong humanity, with a keen intelligence of society and the world.

Some news



Mgr Jacques Perrier has just written a new book:

"Lourdes, a Guide for the 2000s"

(currently available only in French).

It is intended for pilgrims who come regularly to Lourdes.

This guide is full of details, stories, words. It makes it possible to understand the present in the light of the past.

Preface by Mgr Olivier Ribadeau-Dumas

On sale at the Bookshop - Librairie de la Grotte (18,90 €)

By mail from the author :

Maison diocésaine, 15 rue Eugène Varlin
87110 Limoges

Two new chaplains in our Sanctuary

Don Jean-Xavier Salefran, responsible for coordination of the liturgy, became our vice-rector on October 1st.

His successor for liturgy has joined the Sanctuary, he is **Father Denis Tosser**. He comes from Angers.



Don Maxence Bertrand is now in charge of Youth Ministry, succeeding Don Pascal Boulic who has left for Mulhouse.

He was previously in the community of Saint-Martin de Vouvray.

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Secrétaire Général: Etienne Boichut—Trésorière générale: Anne de Bonardi -

Responsables: Service Saint Joseph: Bernard Gladin - Service Saint Frai: Bernadette de Clermont Tonnerre - Service Notre Dame: -
Service Saint Jean-Baptiste: Mariarita Ferri - Service Sainte Bernadette: Véronique Cavalier - Service Saint Michel: Jean-Marie Sire

Our HISTORY

Transfers between the station & airport
and the Accueils Notre-Dame, Saint-Frai and Salus (Unitalsi)

The presence of sick people, the indispensable element in pilgrimages

The National Pilgrimage, organized by the Assumptionist Fathers, led very early pilgrimages to Lourdes with the sick. In 1880, the eighth national pilgrimage included 4,600 pilgrims with nearly 1,000 sick, about half of whom were transported and accommodated free of charge.

The Annals of Lourdes, speaking of the year 1880, tell us *"Instead of trains of valid pilgrims, containing groups of sick people from time to time, there are now regular arrivals of sick pilgrims, coming in slightly greater number with each pilgrimage... The pilgrimage of Our Lady of Lourdes has undergone, above all in the last three years, one of its greatest and most touching transformations... this year a pilgrimage would not have seemed complete without the sick who have become in general its indispensable complement and its jewels (1).*

The clear need for a permanent hospitalité

In his chapter « Birth of the Hospitalité », André Rebsomen (1) writes more :

"The time has finally come to organise these growing groups of sick people, to give them at the right time vigorous arms to carry them, eager helpers to bathe them in the miraculous water, assistants ready to relieve their body and soul, and not to leave this help to improvisation"

The transporting of these patients from the Lourdes train station, opened in 1866, to their places of reception quickly became a major concern. The first stone of the Hospital of Our Lady of Sorrows, now the Accueil Saint-Frai was blessed and laid on April 6th 1874 and in 1878 300 patients of the National Pilgrimage were installed in that part of the building which had been constructed. Other more modest places of reception existed temporarily in the area of the Grotto and it was not until 1910 that the new "Asile Notre-Dame de Lourdes" was inaugurated, between the Gave and the Esplanade, more recently renamed Accueil Notre-Dame and transferred to the right bank of the Gave.

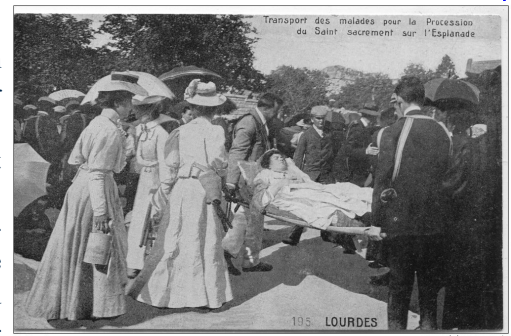
The heroic era from about 1885 to 1910

At first, stretchers (in French *brancards*) were carried at arm's length and with the help of shoulder straps (*bretelles*). Two solid men (*brancardiers* = stretcher-bearers) could thus, in one morning, make three trips from the station to the Grotto crossing the whole town on foot, since the Boulevard de la Grotte at that time did not exist. Hand-drawn carriages were also used.

Then, in 1885, someone had the idea of using shooting-breaks : three stretchers could be placed on the backs.



The sick were less shaken and transported faster and stretcher-bearers were relieved of their load. Horses and coachmen were rented for the day. A tarpaulin provided shelter from the sun and the rain (2).



The first motor vehicles and the tram line(1908-1932)

In 1908, an open-topped vehicle was put into service. Designed as a carriage with benches, it could carry about fifteen seated patients and a dozen stretchers. The bodywork was executed by Mr. Pouyeto, in the workshops of the Oeuvre de la Grotte.

In the same period trailers on rails were used, harnessed to the town's electric tram that came into service in 1900 and was used until May 15th 1932, when the trams stopped running.... Less shaking! A loading/unloading bay was set up at the N-D des Douleurs hospital.

1st generation of covered ambulance buses.

Next, in the interwar period, there came the introduction of the *fourgons*, covered vehicles which progressively grew larger and more modern. The first one, in which I served in 1955, had been manufactured before the Second World War. The side openings were simply equipped with curtains to protect from the weather. Stretchers were loaded on from one side by stretcher bearers placed at the feet and head of the stretcher. The ambulanceman (*fourgonnier*), securely positioned inside, took the stretcher on his hip and passed it through to the opposite side where another stretcher bearer, stationed outside, completed the installation correctly. The stretchers could be a little longer than the width of the vehicle, which gave off a lot of smoke.

People lying on the stretchers were thus placed next to each other and perpendicular to the road. And any sudden braking could be quite scary.../...

Our HISTORY (continued)

.../... The *fourgon* had no rear door but only a chain, in front of which the *fourgonnier* stood on the lowest step. He presided over the recitation of the rosary but other possibilities for him to interact with individual sick pilgrims during the journey were practically non-existent; that is why some free spaces were occupied by stretcher bearers, positioned between the stretchers.

The generation of ambulance buses used from 1958 to 2020.

The first *fourgons* of the next generation were put into service around about the centenary of the apparitions. The last two were withdrawn from service at the end of the 2020 season; their capacity was significantly greater than that of pre-war models and steadily increased during the period. Their sides were completely glazed; the rear opening was kept and was used for the entry and exit of the sick, including those on stretchers. Initially equipped as before with just a chain, the opening was eventually replaced by two folding doors with glass panels.

This time stretchers were arranged pointing in the direction of travel and placed on brackets, on two levels, on each side of the vehicle. These brackets had to be removed a few years ago, because it was deemed that they compromised safety and the emergency exits. After this intervention from the State, only one level of stretchers was retained,

These buses had a floor located about 1.5 m from the level of the roadway. Raised platforms, as at the train station, or aluminum ramps, at the Accueil Saint Frai and Accueil Notre-Dame and at the airport, facilitated access for people with reduced mobility on foot or in their own wheelchair.

2005 onwards, a new generation of “city buses”.

The three buses of the new generation entered service in 2005 and 2006 (3) and the last in July 2021. A fourth one should complete our fleet. The need being clear, the generosity of donors rose to meet the need. Our grateful thanks once again. These vehicles have a central flat-floor area with rails on the ground and folding seats on either side. Wheelchairs and stretchers on special supports can be installed there. Classic seats are arranged in the rear part of the bus and accessible through a gently sloping aisle. The double door on the right allows quick access to the floor of the bus through a small retractable or foldable ramp. Accompanying persons may remain standing.



Apart from the modifications intended for the transport of people on stretchers or in personal wheelchairs, otherwise these buses retain most of the characteristics of urban buses. They are close to the road, without any luggage compartment and, with their length limited to 12 metres, they can more easily negotiate town centre traffic and manoeuvre in the courtyards of the Accueils.

The Hospitalité has always believed that it must provide this essential service by itself, with specifically designed equipment, vehicles that are always available, drivers allocated specifically to this task and the assistance of its volunteer members: at least one “*fourgonnier*” in each bus and teams at both ends of the journey. On the other hand, the transportation of luggage is provided by private companies arranged by the accompanying hospitalities. Since the beginning, the concern of the Hospitaliers of Our Lady of Lourdes has always been to serve the sick with the most suitable equipment for each era and always the same availability.



Philippe Tardy-Joubert

Saint Joseph Service

September 1st 2021

(1) André REBSOMEN, Cinquante ans d’Hospitalité (1880-1930) / 50 Years of Hospitalité - Editions SPES – Paris 1930. The same author also published « Souvenirs d’un brancardier de Lourdes » (Memories of a Lourdes brancardier) - Editions Alsatia, Paris (1936)

(2) René Point, m.i.c. « Servir les malades à Lourdes 1885-1985 – 100 ans d’Hospitalité » (Serving the Sick in Lourdes – 100 Years of Hospitalité) - NDL-Editions (2009).

(3) Bus Citaro Mercedes.



COTISATIONS (SUBSCRIPTIONS).

(Extracts from an article published in March 2021)

What are *cotisations* for ?

They exist for several reasons : They allow those who pay to benefit from insurance cover during the exercise of their activities within the association.

They help the association to function, finance its actions in carrying out its mission and facilitate the stays of its members in Lourdes.

They provide those who pay with a way of demonstrating their willingness to belong to the association.

Who must pay *cotisations* ?

Extract from the Statutes of 2009 : article 7 : « With the exception of *de facto* members and honorary members, all members of the association contribute to the material life of the association by paying a contribution, the amount of which is set annually by the Administrative Council. »

Thus general rule is currently put into practice as follows :

For full members (or *titulaires*) and associate members, payment is due every year. In the event that the person has not come to Lourdes one year, and has not paid their dues, the overdue contribution will be expected with that of the following year.

In cases where a full or associate member does not come in service to Lourdes for several years in a row and does not pay their *cotisation* during that time, upon return to service, they will be asked to pay at least the required amount for the current year and the previous year, and they are free to make a larger contribution towards catching up if they so wish.

For stagiaires still in Formation (known in French as *membres sympathisants*) and auxiliary members (those in their 5th year or more of service who have not made their *engagement* commitment): the *cotisation* is due before they enter service on stage for the year. In the event of an interruption between two years of stage, payment of *cotisations* for the missed years is at the discretion of the individual.

When and how can one pay the *cotisation* ?

The amount due must be paid at the latest on site before the start of one's service or formation. This is imperative. Payment can be made on site by credit card or by cheque or cash (in euros).

Full and associate members are invited to pay their dues without waiting to arrive in Lourdes, by using the possibilities offered by PayPal (*) (advisable for payment from abroad), by making a bank transfer, by sending a cheque (from an account in euros) or, for UK taxpayers, by taking advantage of the British Hospitalité Trust (*).

More and more hospitaliers are now using the PayPal method and paying their dues at the start of the year.

In 2022 cotisations will go up to 12€ for stagiaires up to the 4th year and to 20€ for those in later years.

(*) Paypal

<http://hospitalite-nd-lourdes.com/fr/faire-un-don-5.html>

(*) British Hospitalité Trust

<http://britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk>

Relevé d'Identité Bancaire

Titulaire

Hospitalité N D de Lourdes

Domiciliation

SG Lourdes (02051)

2 PL Peyramale

65104 Lourdes

IBAN: FR76 3000 3020 5100 0372 6017 768

BIC-ADRESSE SWIFT: SOGEFRPP

Family News



Marriage of two hospitaliers on October 10th 2020

Michele Battista (Saint Joseph Service) and **Cristina Erbetta** (Notre Dame Service).

After exchanging rings, the newlyweds gave thanks to Mary by offering their Hospitalité insignia and renewing their *engagement* promises.

A choir of their friends then sang the Lourdes hymn in French.

Daily prayer of married couples : *"Lord, Holy Father, Almighty and eternal God, we give thanks and bless your Holy Name; you created man and woman and blessed their union so that they would be help and support for one another. Remember us today. Protect us and make our love, like that of Christ and the Church, a gift and a dedication. Grant us to live together for a long time, in joy and peace, so that our hearts may constantly raise praise and thanksgiving to you, through your Son in the Holy Spirit. Through Christ, our Lord. Amen."*

Our friend Giuseppe Ponticorvo (Saint Joseph Service) has informed us of the marriage of his daughter **Paola** with Mr **Paolo Belalba**

on July 24th 2021 Saint Stephen's Church

Capri



« The Lord has taken them by the hand »

Notre Dame Service

Adelgunde SCHYPULLA

Nuria ELIAS XIVILLE

Lydia PEITZ

Isabel BASTIDA MARTINEZ

Hortensia GONZALEZ GARCIA

Véronica Mc MULLIN

Honorina ALLER mother of Maria Concepcion SO-
TO et mother-in-law of José Luis MORENO of
Saint Joseph Service

François, husband of Paule CHARTRON

Alfonso, father of IMMACULADA GARCIA
VALDES

Saint John the Baptist Service

Luigia FILIPPELLI CARNEVALE

Yvette, mother of Joëlle and grandmother of Syl-
vie CAQUINEAU

Claude BERTHON

Saint Frai Service

Rachele OLIVIERI

Thérèse GUINHUT

Ignace MULLIEZ, father-in-law of Virginie MUL-
LIEZ

Saint Michael Service

François MOULIN

Saint Bernadette Service

Maureen, mother of Catherine O'CARROLL

Saint Joseph Service

Claude GIROUDON

Emile FINAZ

Joseph ELMO

Pietro CALLERA

Eligio FERRARI

John HANNON

Michaël WEIR

Salvatore CARBONARO

Jesus Angel BERNAL BERNAL

Michel AGUESSE

René LOIZEAU

Rien HAMERS

Sean O'NEILL

Jean-Loup BONTE

Philippe ROGER

Joseph Mc NAMEE

Amado, brother of Silvestre SEGARRA
SEGARRA

« Rappelez-vous que lorsque vous quittez cette terre, vous n'emportez rien de ce que vous avez reçu ,
uniquement ce que vous avez donné »

Saint François d'Assise