

Pilgrim and Servant

Newsletter of L'Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes



**"SINCE 1885,
OUR MISSION HAS
NOT CHANGED"**

*Welcome
Serve
Bear witness*

"God wants you elsewhere"

When he left the Abbey of Sept Fons on July 2, 1770, Benoît-Joseph Labre experienced yet another failure in his search for meaning in his life. He wanted to live in this Cistercian abbey, in intimate relationship with the divine and human person of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Monastic life has no other purpose... but it was denied to him. Before his departure, the abbot said to him: "God wants you elsewhere." Prayer, the backdrop to the monk's life, he would then practice it while walking until his death in 1783.

Our patron saint is also the patron saint of the homeless and pilgrims. "God wants you elsewhere." This phrase raises questions for all Christians, and especially for all hospitallers. "Where is my elsewhere? What is God's plan for me?"



We need your help

By Daniel Pezet, President of the HNDL

Dear friends,
Brothers and sisters in humanity,

Servant

The Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes will close its doors at the beginning of November, with the exception of one service. The Saint-Jean-Baptiste service will continue its mission of welcoming people to the pools for bathing and water rituals.

As every year, this mission will be able to continue throughout the winter thanks to the generosity and availability of our friends from neighboring hospitalities, the Bigourdans, the Basco-Béarnais, and the Landais. However, given the increasing number of pilgrims coming to Lourdes during the off-season, they will not be enough, and we absolutely need reinforcements.

I am therefore appealing to all the hospitaliers of the HNDL and the accompanying hospitalities of France and all countries. Thanks to the help of the Sanctuary, which will offer full board at a particularly attractive price on certain dates (see article on page 19), we will be able to welcome pilgrims for the Water Gesture and for immersion.

Yes, we need you, not only to offer pilgrims water or bathing facilities during the off-season, but also to provide training or refresher courses that will enable you to be ready to welcome pilgrims to the Baths for bathing during the upcoming 2026 season. This is because all baths should have a permanent filtration system to allow bathing, and a disinfection system for bathrobes should allow them to be reused within a very short time.

Pilgrim

The pastoral theme for 2026 will be: **the Annunciation.**

“Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you” (Luke 1:28).

2026 will be a year of welcome, listening, and the “yes” that changes everything.

With the assurance of my friendship and devotion.



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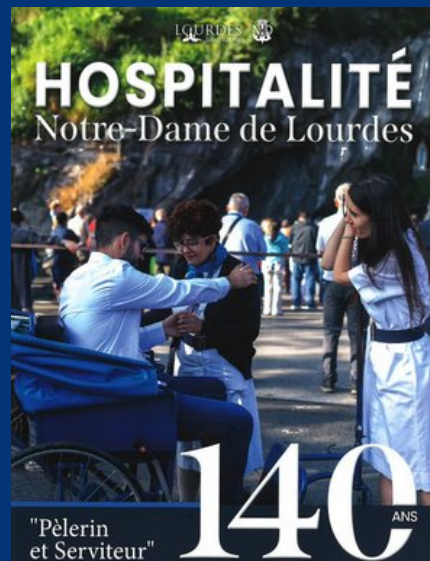
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To mark the 140th anniversary of its founding in 1885, discover the entire history of the HNDL and read some wonderful testimonials in the newly published book / magazine.

It is available for purchase at our premises, in the St-Michel service office for €14 in French and will soon be available in English, Italian, Spanish, German, and Dutch.



As part of the Holy Year, 75 HNDL hospitaliers gathered in Rome in early April 2025 to celebrate 140 years of Hospitalité.



Pilgrimage to Rome **Under the gaze of Saint Benoît-Joseph Labre, pilgrim of Hope**

From April 4 to 8, 2025, seventy-five members of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes participated in the Jubilee for the Sick in Rome, accompanied by Father Michel Daubanes and Father Markus Polders.

A highlight: on April 6, in St. Peter's Square, while Mass was being presided over by Archbishop Fisichella, Pope Francis appeared at the end of the celebration to bless the crowd. It was a deeply moving moment for everyone, just a few days before his departure for the Father's House.

The next day, the hospitaliers celebrated the Eucharist in the church of Santa Maria ai Monti, near the tomb of their patron saint, Benoît-Joseph Labre. A reliquary of this pilgrim of hope, recalling his witness of poverty, prayer, and trust in God, was given to them by Father Markus Polders.

Between prayer, sharing, and the unexpected grace of a moment with Pope Francis, this pilgrimage to Rome will remain engraved in the memory of the hospitaliers of Lourdes. They leave strengthened by the example of their patron saint, pilgrim of hope, and bearers of a renewed mission to the sick and pilgrims.



On Wednesday, July 30, the HNDL solemnly celebrated its 140th anniversary during a Mass at Saint Joseph Chapel. The celebration was presided over by Bishop Jean-Marc Micas of Tarbes and Lourdes, in the presence of Father Michel Daubanes, rector of the Shrine. During the ceremony, Bishop Jean-Marc Micas delivered a profound and moving homily, recalling the mission and service faithfully accomplished by so many people over the decades. It was a powerful moment, marked by prayer, gratitude, and remembrance, which highlighted the rich history of the HNDL and the beauty of the collective commitment that has animated it for 140 years.



“At that time there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited.”

"When I was a seminarian, every summer I came here to serve with the “ Day Pilgrims.” Among other activities offered to pilgrims, there was an afternoon of discussion, exchange, and sharing. One afternoon, I was there with a group while others were following in Bernadette's footsteps or praying the rosary.

The group was quite large, and I invited people to quickly say where they came from in a first round of introductions that was meant to be quick. It was a wasted effort: the first couple said where they were from and added that they were there because of a misfortune that had befallen them. The second couple, encouraged by the first, said where they were from and that they were there to pray for someone who was seriously ill. The third couple said they were there because the husband was unemployed; the fourth couple said they were there because they had just received some very bad news; the fifth couple said they were there because one of their children had just told them he was getting divorced, and so on... Then it was the turn of a couple: they said where they came from (Normandy), and, intimidated by the others before them, hardly dared to say that they had come to give thanks to the Virgin Mary for their eldest daughter's successful university exams. Then, to get into the spirit of things, they added that they too were having some difficulties with their farm...

At the beginning of John's Gospel, the Gospel of Cana gives us an essential key to understanding the Gospel. The word ‘gospel’ means ‘Good News’. I read somewhere that this news is joyful, luminous, ‘jubilant, comparable to those happy moments in our human stories that are usually wedding celebrations.’ In Jesus, God becomes man. He shares our joys and sorrows, the suffering of humankind, and also their hopes. In Jesus, God binds himself to humanity with a bond even stronger than that which unites spouses in human marriage. In Jesus, God announces to us that joy is promised, a joy that nothing and no one can take away from those who have experienced an encounter with Christ, nothing and no one, not even death, not even sin.

Theologians and preachers often insist that God became man in order to save our sinful and corrupt humanity. In the account of the wedding at Cana at the beginning of the Gospel, Saint John tells us that God became flesh in our flesh in order to share with us the joy of heaven, an immense joy, a joy that nothing can prevent.

For 140 years, the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes has welcomed, accompanied, and shared the pilgrimage of many people who are experiencing the trials of illness, disability, debilitating old age, and the anxiety of approaching death. Its members, both past and present, know full well that the Hospitalité is not a place of sadness! What laughter, what deep, healthy joy is shared there, where many would expect to see only pain, misery, and tears! It is astonishing, as you well know. It is astonishing, and it is prophetic, just as the Gospel scene of the wedding at Cana is a prophetic scene, a sign of the Church announcing and bringing about the Kingdom of God, his heaven. That is why some people commit themselves to it and devote themselves to it.



Mary is there. She is the one who calls out to her Son. She is the one who asks the servants to do whatever he tells them. She is the one who brings all this about, despite Jesus' reluctance and, no doubt, the servants' possible disbelief. Mary is there, helping to bring heaven closer to earth. Mary is there, both a discreet and indispensable guest, with incredible boldness, which should not surprise us since she is the one who once sang the Magnificat! Mary is there, at the crossroads of this joyful human celebration and the first of the signs that Jesus performs, sensitive to the needs of men, confident in the power of God (she knows something about that!), bold as a woman can be. "Whatever he tells you, do it."

On this 140th anniversary of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes, an anniversary that coincides with the jubilee year, we are invited to give thanks. How many men, women, and young people have come here to serve! With Mary, they have become pilgrims of hope. With Mary, they have become missionaries of the hope that comes from God himself. With Mary, they have become servants of the hope of their brothers and sisters.

Is service in Lourdes always like a wedding banquet? From time to time, yes, no doubt, but not always! There is water in abundance! There are also pilgrims thirsty to wash and immerse themselves in it! But for all this to serve the joy and hope of mankind, we need the wine of love, the wine of faith, the wine of brotherly charity.

This wine, which God makes from our modest offerings, transforms the world, that is to say, our hearts, our lives, our minds, our actions, our reflexes, our words, our thoughts, our commitments, our ways of serving, our ways of taking registrations for new hospitaliers, or organizing the schedule at the Baths, or collecting dues from new and old members, or saying "Shh!" in front of the Grotto, or helping pilgrims get on their trains or off their buses. Mary is there. Just as she was with Bernadette. With her, this year, we are pilgrims of hope.

Dear friends in Hospitalité, I ask you to understand that this also means that, with Mary, you are missionaries of hope for your brothers and sisters, for other hospitaliers, and for the sick pilgrims whom all the services of the Hospitalité directly or indirectly serve. 140 years: Be proud of this long history! Be ambitious for the future. This means that you too must be pilgrims without ceasing: always on the move, that is to say, in inner movement, in reform, in instability, shaken by successive generations, shaken by the calls of the Lord and of the Church. "With Mary, pilgrims of hope": the phrase is beautiful. Taken literally, it can be formidable! So, do not be afraid to do whatever the Lord tells you!

And happy anniversary to the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes!

Amen!



Jean Buscail named Knight of the National Order of Merit

He humbly accepts this distinction, sharing it with his brothers and sisters of the Hospitalité.

He humbly accepts this distinction, sharing it with his brothers and sisters of the Hospitality.

Jean Buscail has served as a hospitaller for 63 years at Tarbes-Lourdes-Pyrénées airport, where he is responsible for the disembarkation and boarding of sick pilgrims. He knows every corner of the airport, has accompanied its successive reconstructions, created a space dedicated to sick pilgrims, and redesigned their reception area.

In April 2025, he was made a Knight of the National Order of Merit, in the presence of the Prefect of the Hautes-Pyrénées and the Rector of the Sanctuary. His commitment dates back to 1955: as a restless teenager, he met Henri de Dieuleveult, a hospitaller in Lourdes, who guided him towards the HNDL. This encounter marked the beginning of a journey that was both human and spiritual, guided by God's call and the service of pilgrims.



Weekend Thanksgiving Prayer

On Friday, September 12, the traditional Thanksgiving prayer that closes a week of service welcomed a group of hospitaliers and interns consisting of about a hundred Filipinos from the United States. At the end of the celebration, participants were able to kiss or touch the relic of St. Benoît-Joseph Labre.



“Drawing from the source of our commitment”

On May 23 and 24, 2025, a dozen HNDL hospitaliers from Île-de-France (the Paris region) organized and participated in the Pilgrimage of Hope, from the Sacred Heart of Montmartre to Notre-Dame des Victoires.

After a fraternal dinner, Father Sébastien Coudroy, canon of the Sacred Heart and author of the book *Progressing toward God, Holiness in 7 Steps*, gave a teaching on “prayer, the source of our commitment.” These words immediately found an echo in the Compline prayer and a night of adoration at the Sacred Heart, a remarkable experience of trust and unity before the Blessed Sacrament.

Saturday began with Lauds and a jubilee procession to Montmartre, followed by a time of adoration. The hospitaliers then made their way as pilgrims to Notre-Dame des Victoires, praying the rosary and singing the Ave Maria of Lourdes for all the hospitaliers. Mass was celebrated there, followed by a shared lunch with other hospitaliers from Paris.

In the afternoon, in union with the Benedictine Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the group led the rosary and received a second teaching from Sister Marie-Nathanaël: “Being at the service of mercy.” She invited everyone to welcome and serve with the loving gaze of Jesus and Mary. Those who wished to do so were able to complete the Jubilee process on site.

These two days, rich in new friendships within the HNDL, renewed the fervor of the participants, deepened their fraternity, and strengthened their commitment to the service of hope. All agreed to meet again in Lourdes to continue their mission.

If hospitaliers from other regions wish to organize similar reunions, they can write to the HNDL secretariat, which will put them in touch with the hospitaliers in Paris.



After Miami, Guadalupe, and Huesca, the Hospitality of Almeria, created on February 11, has joined the HNDL family. A delegation led by Bishop Antonio Gómez Cantero of the diocese came to Lourdes in March to present the statutes of the new association.

Deeply attached to the spirituality of Lourdes, Bishop Gómez Cantero hopes that this hospitality will spread the spirit of devotion and charity to the sick throughout his diocese.

This year, Almeria will come on pilgrimage with the province of Murcia, before organizing its own pilgrimage next year, carried by the enthusiasm of many faithful, especially young people.

Almeria joins the HNDL



Renovation of the N-D de Lourdes accommodation (former hotel)

On July 5, the Administrative Council gave its approval to renovate all the rooms at the Notre-Dame de Lourdes accommodation. The renovation of the building actually began with the replacement of the boiler last winter.

The renovation will be carried out from mid-October 2025 to the end of March 2026 in a single phase, in order to avoid price increases in the following year and to avoid paying for two construction sites. The Council gave the president, treasurer, and secretary general the go-ahead to take all necessary steps for this renovation.



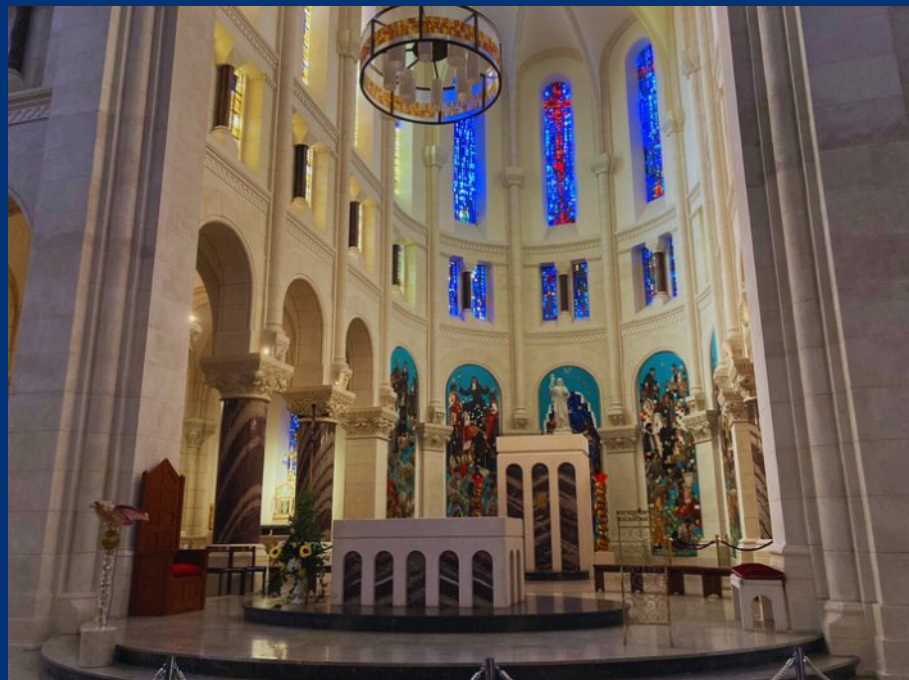


Sanctuary: Paul VI Chapel

On June 28, 2025, the Sanctuary of Lourdes inaugurated the new Saint Paul VI Chapel, located on the ground floor of the Saint Bernadette Museum. The blessing was given by Bishop Jean-Marc Micas and Father Michel Daubanes, in the presence of priests, chaplains, and employees of the Sanctuary. Housed in the former Bishop Théas Hall, the chapel combines simplicity and symbolism: a pictorial altarpiece depicting Our Lady of Lourdes and Saint Paul VI, a luminous Way of the Cross, and varnished wooden seats for the presiding priest and assistants. Bishop Micas praised the work of the artists and craftsmen, highlighting the beauty and timelessness of this new space, which will provide a place for pilgrim groups to attend Mass.

Parish Church

The Church of the Sacred Heart, which houses Bernadette's baptismal font, reopened at the end of August after seven years of renovation work and a complete refurbishment of its interior. The reopening was marked by the unveiling, outside the parish church, of a new statue of Bernadette Soubirous, blessed by Bishop Jean-Marc Micas, in a space that is now pedestrianized



A new generation of blue Voitures

The Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes has launched a major project to modernize its fleet of blue voitures, combining respect for tradition with adaptation to today's needs.

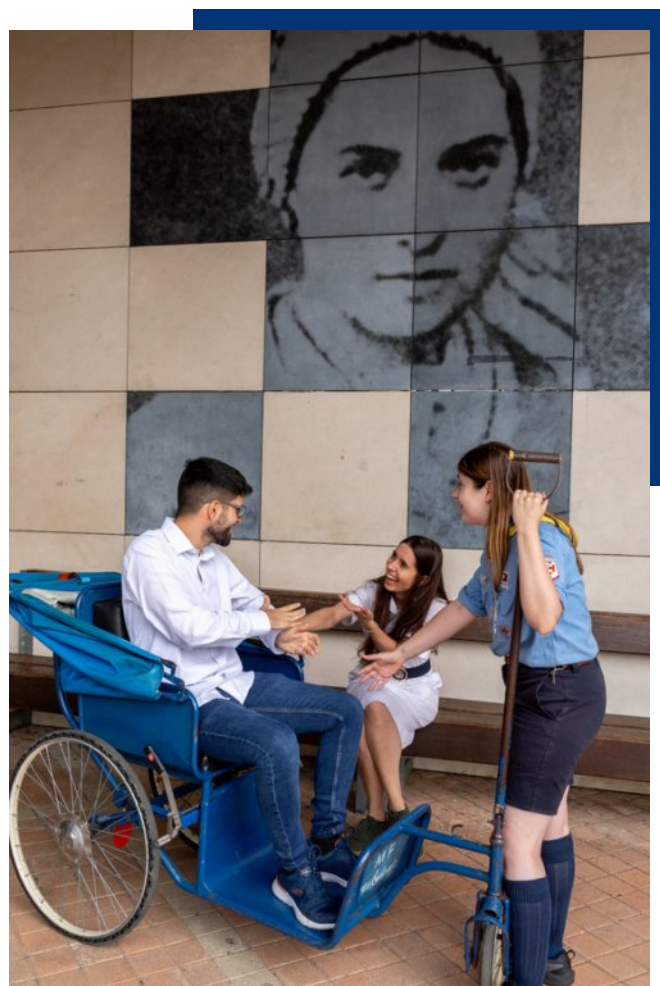
Introduced at the beginning of the 20th century and inspired by the carts used in the Pyrenean spa resorts, the blue carriages have since become an integral part of the Sanctuary's landscape. With their large rear wheels, small front wheel and protective hood, they have enabled generations of pilgrims to take part in processions and celebrations.

The model currently in use, designed in the 1960s by Aumon, has undergone only modest changes, notably the addition of a braking system in 2012. But time has taken its toll, and many of the 800 or so carriages in circulation are now in a worrying state of disrepair, which the hospitaliers at the St-Michel service struggle with on a daily basis.

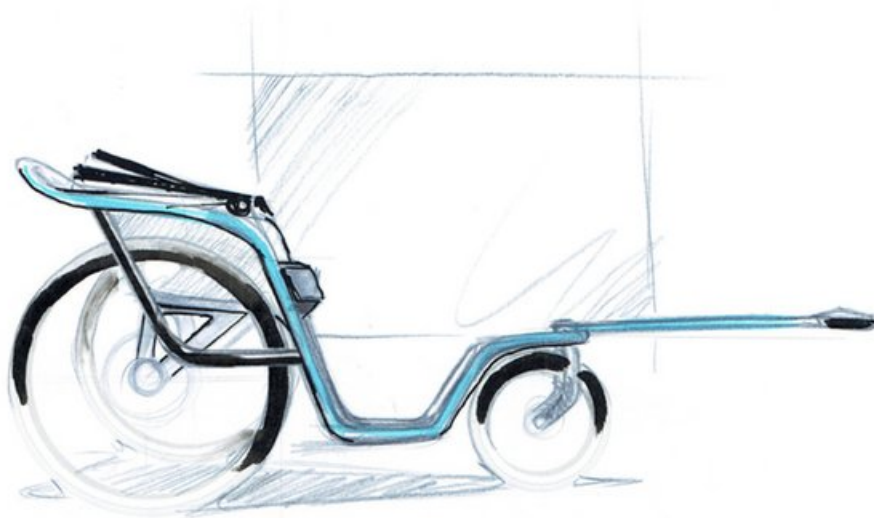
To mark its 140th anniversary, the HNDL has commissioned MILC (Made In Le Coin), a company based in La-Barthe-de-Neste in the north of the Hautes-Pyrénées department, to design a new generation of carriages. Two prototypes are to be built by the end of 2025 and then tested in the sanctuary.

The objectives are clear: to improve safety and comfort while preserving the spirit and identity of these vehicles. Mary's blue colour will be retained, as will the dimensions and manual traction, which are essential for maintaining the human connection between pilgrims and hosts. Among the changes planned are: more effective braking, wheel protection to prevent accidents, a transparent side cover to improve visibility in rainy weather, and the use of lighter materials to make maneuvering easier. These adjustments should make the experience safer for pilgrims and less strenuous for the volunteers who accompany them.

Beyond their practical aspect, the blue carriages are a symbol. They embody the welcome given to the most vulnerable and the solidarity expressed in Lourdes. The HNDL hopes to offer tomorrow's pilgrims safer and more comfortable transportation, while perpetuating a tradition that is an integral part of the spiritual experience of the sanctuary.



The first sketches of the future blue microcar by the Bigorre-based company MILC



R. 10/7/2025



The cost of a new microcar is estimated at €2,200 including tax. An initial order for 200 units—about a quarter of the current fleet—is planned, with delivery expected in the summer of 2026.

Ultimately, all of the carts will need to be replaced, which represents a significant investment.

Funding will rely heavily on donations from individuals and associations, a tradition deeply rooted in the life of the Sanctuary.

Like the old ones, these carts will have a clearly visible space for writing the name of the donor association or the pilgrim to whom it is dedicated. They are thus ex-votos.



Fabien Metais, St. Joseph Service
"My wife and I organize our lives around Lourdes."

Fabien Metais, an industrialist from Poitou, is a member of the Saint Joseph service and of the diocesan hospitality association in his department, of which he will become president next year. Aged 47, he and his family have been faithful to Lourdes for four generations, from his grandmother to his young son Alexis.



We all have a story about Lourdes. For Fabien Metais, it is primarily a family story: his grandmother had a tradition of offering each of her grandchildren a pilgrimage to Lourdes on the occasion of their First Communion. She herself, along with Fabien's parents, were diocesan hospitaliers. Quite naturally, little Fabien followed them in their mission.

On the first evening, in the elevator, he met a girl his age lying on a stretcher. She was seriously ill and had difficulty speaking. "We didn't talk much, but throughout the pilgrimage, I always kept an eye on her. I couldn't take my eyes off her." Shortly afterwards, he learned of her death. Upset, he confided in his grandmother: "It's unfair, she went to Lourdes for nothing." She replied, "No, she is free." "Even today, I still think about it often. I am convinced that this encounter is the profound reason for my commitment. It was this little girl who started it all."

The teenager first followed his family's example in the ranks of the Poitou hospitality service.

"It's quite simple, my parents only took one week of vacation a year, which they devoted to Lourdes. My brother and I followed suit. He gave it up, but I continued. I immediately understood that I couldn't do without it. It was even painful to leave Lourdes when I was young."

In the early 2000s, thanks to a member of his group who was also involved with the HNDL, he discovered the various services offered by the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes and the team spirit that drives them. He was particularly impressed by the Saint-Joseph service and the dedication shown by the volunteers every time a train arrived.

"I told my friend: I want to do that. I wasn't on a spiritual journey, I wanted to serve, to help. It was during my internships that I really became aware of the message of Lourdes. During my previous pilgrimages, there was no such catechesis. There, I learned Lourdes by heart. I already loved it... and I loved it even more. I feel at home here, in fact."



But one passion can hide another. It was on his return from a pilgrimage to Lourdes, as he was getting off the bus, that he met Julie, his future wife, who had come to pick up her grandparents.

"That's how we met, thanks to Lourdes, you could say. After that, she started going on pilgrimages with me, then doing stages with me. When it's a family affair, it's much simpler: there's no need to justify yourself. I'll be honest: we've never gone abroad, never on vacation. But that's our choice: we organize our lives around Lourdes."

In 2005, he joined the Saint-Joseph service. Eight years later, in 2013, he joined the council. "I was given responsibilities that I never asked for. I never sought them out, but I always took them on." "Julie, in turn, made her commitment in 2015. She serves at the Baths. Since birth, their son Alexis—now 7 years old—has accompanied them to Lourdes three times a year. For the HNDL and as part of the diocesan pilgrimage. "We are unable to choose between the two; for us, it's vital!"

Fabien admits that he needs both forms of service: "They are two different ways of serving, with distinct atmospheres and worlds. With the Diocesan Hospitality, we take care of our sick directly; we are in contact with them. With the HNDL, we welcome people; contact is less frequent. That said, we have to put things into perspective: I supervised many ceremonies before becoming a councillor, and you can't imagine how many contacts you can make just by holding a rope. Of course, we don't participate directly in the service, but we help to make it beautiful and orderly."

A recruiter at heart, as he likes to describe himself, the current councillor - soon to be at the end of his term - knows how essential transmission is within the HNDL.

"There are no schools here. People come for a week, then leave. Others take over. That's why passing on knowledge is so important: it's a necessity. I started thirty years ago, trained by those who came before me. Today, I feel a certain nostalgia for that era, for those generations of hospitaliers who passed the torch to us. My words may surprise some, but I am convinced that the future of the HNDL also depends on this heritage. To move forward, we sometimes need to look back, to return to our roots. Covid has dealt us a very hard blow. Many of our elders have not returned. It is an immense loss."

Next year, Fabien will take over as president of the Hospitalité du Poitou. At the end of his term as councillor in the HNDL, he will also return to being a hospitalier among the others. Together with Julie, they will carry out their service at the Notre-Dame de Lourdes accommodation. "We have offered to be caretakers. That way, the three of us can be there, with our son." The next generation is assured.



Four generations of loyalty to Lourdes



Alain Trémolières, St Jean-Baptiste service
"Being hospitable is not a sacrifice, it is a gift"



A Parisian lawyer, passionate actor, and avid traveler, Alain Trémolières has remained faithful to one unchanging commitment for thirty years: the HNDL.

What was your first encounter with the Hospitalité?

It was in 1995. I came to Lourdes with some religious friends. I saw people helping pilgrims and was immediately drawn to it. At the time, I was living in Marseille. For a year, I looked for ways to get involved myself. By chance, I discovered the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes. The following year, I began my stage. I was then assigned to the baths, where I still work and where I was the first male councillor.

What struck you most when you discovered Lourdes?

There are often groups of children, schoolchildren. So I tell them: Lourdes is noisy, the sanctuary is noisy. Cover your ears and look! It is through your eyes that you will open your heart. This gaze is one that focuses on diversity: in Lourdes, the face changes every week, in step with the pilgrimages.

Sometimes you have to step back from the noise to really see. What struck me from the outset was the attention paid by the diocesan hospitaliers to a person in a blue wheelchair. This simple gesture, whether directed at a sick person, a disabled person, or even an able-bodied person, deeply moved me.

Why did you choose the baths?

I didn't choose, because at the time, we didn't get to choose. But I'm glad they put me in the baths, because with the processions, I never understood what was going on.

For me, one thing is essential: there is no service more beautiful, and no service more difficult than another. Each one brings its share of joy, difficulties, frustrations, and sometimes failures. At the baths, I see what's going on there, but not what's happening in the meadow, at the Grotto, or even in an office. And vice versa. That's why I deeply believe that all services are equal and have the same beauty.



What place does your pilgrimage to Lourdes occupy?

Apart from exchanges with hospitalier friends and the people we meet, I'll tell you frankly, none. For me, it has no place. I came here to serve. It only lasts six days. There is no frustration. My personal pilgrimage is service.

Do you set aside time for yourself?

The little moments are the camaraderie we share with each other or during service, and it can be very strong. Because when you face a difficulty, you don't carry the service or the solution alone. Service is experienced together, in sharing.

Is this sharing also experienced with the pilgrims?

There is a real relationship. The bath is a place of intimacy, a space where pilgrims, even those who are ill, can confide completely. This particular intimacy is unique to the baths.

But we, as companions, do not intrude into people's lives and do not ask personal questions. Our role is to accompany them objectively, responding only to the requests expressed by the participants. These requests may be related to the unknown, to safety, or to cleanliness. It is important to keep in mind that safety and cleanliness have always been essential. For me, it is fundamental never to adopt an intrusive approach. Accompaniment must remain respectful, attentive, and discreet.

Is being hospitable a sacrifice?

It's not a sacrifice, it's a gift. We give our time, whether professional or family time; we finance our stay. We need to stop saying things like, "Oh yes, the baths are the best service, I did this, I did that, I have a medal," etc. You make a donation, and that's it! If you want to do it, you do it; if you don't want to do it, you don't. But we need to simplify things a lot, and then it will be easier.

Because you could very well go to the other side of the world to soak up the sun.

But I do that too. I spend my life in Lebanon, I went to see the neighborhoods destroyed. Before that, I was in Afghanistan...

But that's humanitarian work. It's another way of serving others.

I'll let you in on a secret: I love museums. But what I love most of all is human nature. For me, my museum is people. I love living among them, sharing their fragilities and their strengths, whether in Beirut or Lourdes.

What does Lourdes bring to your daily life?

The opportunity to express this love for others more easily than if I had remained stuck in a certain routine. It's not in my nature to compartmentalize. Lourdes has taught me to listen—and for a lawyer, that's essential: taking the time to really listen to your clients. On a more spiritual level, Lourdes has also opened me up to other Christian sensibilities, particularly the richness of Eastern Christianity.

What would you say to a young person to encourage them to join the HNDL?

Give it a try! You are free, you are not in a straitjacket. If you don't like it, leave! But at least give it a try. Taste it! You see? It's like discovering a new flavour: taste it! Just because you join the HNDL doesn't mean you have to stay. There are also lots of other services at the Sanctuary, other forms of volunteering. The HNDL is just one possibility among many. So everywhere, in everything you do... try! Taste! Experiment! You are free!

A final word?

Keep it simple. To be close to people, you have to put your ego aside. Don't judge, don't prejudge. Accept. Receive. Welcome is the right word.



Father Remi Sempé, 1st Rector of the Sanctuary **“Be children of the Immaculate Conception”**

On the eve of the 13th National Pilgrimage, on August 18, 1885, the first seven hospitaliers de Notre-Dame de Lourdes sealed their commitment with an act of consecration. The *Journal de Lourdes*, a local periodical, reported the event as follows:

There is no one who was not struck, during the National Pilgrimage, by the services rendered by the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Salut, founded by the Reverend Fathers of the Assumption, and to which its president, Count de Combettes du Luc, has given tremendous impetus. More touched than others by the opportunity presented by this charitable association, the Bishop of Tarbes wanted the sick from all pilgrimages and throughout the year to be the object of equal devotion. He therefore canonically established the Confraternity of the Hospitalité Notre-Dame de Lourdes in the Crypt and solicited the spiritual generosity of the Sovereign Pontiff on its behalf.

The time had come to form the leadership of this new charitable work. Who else to turn to for proselytes than those who, in France and in the most distant nations, were accustomed to being followed as leaders?

Seven of them were called upon, the first being the Count of Combettes du Luc, and all responded: “Here we are.”

They gathered on Wednesday morning in the chapel of the Confraternity, with a select group of Hospitaliers and ladies of Notre-Dame de Salut. Father Burosse, spiritual director of the brotherhood, offered the Holy Sacrifice. In a few heartfelt words, Father Sempé reminded the Hospitaliers of the greatness of their vocation. “Be big-hearted. That is the motto of martyrs, saints, heroes, and all those who have wanted to do great things. By deigning to appear at the Grotto, the ever-Immaculate Virgin says to us: ‘I am purity without stain, charity without limits. Come, beggars, sick people, sinners.’”

You have felt the need to enter, through the brotherhood, into the intimacy of Our Lady of Lourdes; you want to be soldiers, to be apostles. Be children of the Immaculate Conception, appearing before the world with spotless conduct, and uniting yourselves more and more to Jesus Christ. Then you will be great of heart, for you will devote yourselves with simplicity and love, not only to the health of bodies, but above all to the redemption of souls.”

At that moment, each of the aspirants came forward and said aloud, as they received their medal: “O most gracious Mother, I consecrate myself entirely to you and to your Son Jesus. Deign to admit me into your service, so that through the fervor of my prayers and the edification of my entire life, my devotion to the sick and the conversion of sinners, I may deserve to work with you, with Jesus, for the salvation of souls and the peace of the Church and the world.”

Here are the names of the seven founding members who make up the council of the brotherhood: Count de Combettes du Luc, president; Viscount de Pouy, secretary; Messrs. J. Cabanis; Marquis de Laurens-Castelet; Viscount du Faur de Pibrac; Count de Villalba; Baron de Saint-Maclou.

This may seem few. Ozanam's companions were no more numerous at their first conference: barely eight. But now their followers can be counted in both worlds!

*Journal of Lourdes, September 1885
(Archives of the Sanctuary NDL)*





Among the first hospitaliers to join the HNDL during the year 1885 were two future presidents: Émile Christophe (1905–1922) and Étienne de Beauchamp (1922–1957)

Cotisations (Membership Fees)

What are membership fees used for?

Membership fees serve several purposes: They demonstrate the commitment of hospitaliers and stagiaires to the association.

They enable hospitaliers and stagiaires to benefit from insurance coverage while carrying out activities within the association.

They help finance the association's activities to fulfill its mission, to operate, and to facilitate its members' stays in Lourdes.

All members are required to pay dues each year, whether or not they come to Lourdes.

Dues are our most important source of income. Paying your membership fee each year is an act of solidarity and a strong gesture that marks your belonging to the family of hospitaliers.

Membership fee

- **for hospitaliers in 2026: €20**
- **for stagiaires (during their stage) until the end of their formation in 2026: €12**

How to pay your membership fee?

In person, at the Saint Michel office.

Remotely:

- by check (French hospitaliers only)
 - by bank transfer or PayPal
 - for UK taxpayers, by taking advantage of the British Hospitalité Trust (*) .
- (*) Paypal : <http://hospitalite-nd-lourdes.com/fr/faire-un-don-5.html>
(*) British Hospitalité Trust : <http://britishhospitalitetrust.co.uk>

Bank details

Account holder

Hospitalité N D de Lourdes

Address SG Lourdes (02051) 2 PL Peyramale 65104 Lourdes

IBAN: FR76 3000 3020 5100 0372 6017 768 BIC-SWIFT ADDRESS: SOGEFRPP



Serving in Lourdes during the off-season

In order to accommodate hospitaliers and volunteers during the off-season, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes will reserve 10 rooms for the HNDL next winter at greatly reduced prices, with full board.

These hospitaliers will mainly serve at the pools. Priority will therefore be given to hospitaliers from the St-Jean-Baptiste service or to hospitaliers with good experience in serving pilgrims at the pools.

During the following periods:

- *December 5 to 8, 2025*
- *December 19, 2025 to January 5, 2026*
- *February 6 to March 9, 2026*

Accommodation is offered at the Maison Abbé Pomian (a completely renovated house near the Maison des Chapelains) and meals will be taken at the Maison des Chapelains.

*Full board: **15 euros per day per person***

Registration with the HNDL secretariat (hospitalite@hospitalite-nd-lourdes.com)

We will forward your file to the Sanctuary and then confirm your registration with practical details (sending instructions, room number, access, key collection, return and billing).

Important dates

The HNDL, with the exception of the baths and the administrative office, will be closed from November 4, 2025.

For the Lourdes Days (February 9, 10, and 11, 2026), Notre-Dame du Oui and the Self will be open from February 7 to 12, 2026.

For our Hospitalité, the season will begin on **Friday, March 27, 2026.**



"The Lord has taken them by the hand"

Service Notre-Dame

Chantal **BURVENICH**

Marie-Françoise **MAHIEU**

Josefa **MARTINEZ ABELLAN**

Le mari de Madeleine **HOUREAU**

Le père de Rosella **BAREZZANI**

Le père de Soizic **CHANTREL**

Service Saint Jean-Baptiste

Maria Ebe **MUSTACCHI**

Le neveu de Philippe **PREYSSAS**

La mère de Maria Teresa **DONATO**

La fille de Danièle **PACHY**

Service Marie Saint-Frai

Gloria **GARMA**

Diana **WILLIAMS**

Rosaria **AGIUS**

Catherine **MUSCAT**

Françoise **BOUSSON**

Régis **CAZIN**

Graci **ESTRADA ALCAINA**

La tante d'Anna Chiara **SCARNERE**

Service Sainte-Bernadette

Benedetto **DE MARI**

Service Saint-Michel

Roger **GABORIAU**

Service Saint-Joseph

Edward **ROCHE**

Angel Juan **FERNANDEZ ESTASIO**

Abbé Jean-Paul **HERVE**

André **POTIER**

George Clément **PEARSON**

Giuseppe **GANORA**

Jean **SALVAT**

Anthony **BROOK**

Marc **ROISIN**

Natale **BELINGERI**

Harry **SAMMONS**

Michel **PEYRINT**

Carlo **TRAVERSA**

Natalino **MAZZONETTO**

William **TREACY**

Marcel **ANQUETIL**

Adelio **MELCHIORI**

Filippo **CERRUTI**

Jean **MOREAU**

Francis **PANNATIER**

Marcel **Hachi**

La mère de Paul **NOLAN**

Le père de Martin **VIDAL**

Le frère de François **BRESSON**

L'épouse de Jeremy **DEEDES**

Le fils de Cosimo **MIANULLI**

L'épouse de Peter **JANSSEN**

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