

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION HOSPITALITÉ CONSTITUTION

Title

1. Catholic Association Hospitalité of Our Lady of Lourdes. It is a Branch of the Catholic Association, Registered Charity No 1071120 Registered in England and Wales as a Company Limited by Guarantee No 3581414.

Affiliation

2. The Hospitalité is affiliated to the Hospitalité Notre Dame de Lourdes.

Patron

3. The Patron shall be the bishop of a Diocese forming part of the Catholic Association Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes, invited to act as such by the council of the Hospitalité.

Objects

4. The principal objects of the Hospitalité are:

a. To serve assisted pilgrims going to Lourdes on the Catholic Association pilgrimage and to help in the smooth running of religious and other activities involving assisted pilgrims on that pilgrimage under the direction of and in collaboration with the pilgrimage directors and heads of service.

b. To strengthen the bonds of Catholic life between its members and to help them maintain their obligations as Christians, their responsibilities in the church and their devotion to Our Lady.

This service consists especially of looking after the material needs of the assisted pilgrims although the obligation of a member of the Hospitalité is not limited to material work.

Members will be expected to help all pilgrims to benefit fully from the religious and social benefits of a pilgrimage to Lourdes.

5. All this to be undertaken in a spirit of friendship, of charity and solidarity which are parts of the ministry of the Church and must complement work done while away from Lourdes, especially in their own Dioceses and Parishes, if possible, in co-ordination with other members of the Hospitalité.

Chaplain

6. The Hospitalité shall have as its chaplain the priest who is chaplain for the sick on the Catholic Association Pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Council

7. The Hospitalité is to be governed by a council composed of the following:
The Chaplain.

A Medical Officer.
The Chief Nurse or Matron.
The Chief Brancardier.
The Chief Handmaid.
The Leader(s) of the Young Helpers' Group (one vote between joint leaders).
Three elected members.

The council shall appoint a President, Secretary and Treasurer and may co-opt any member of the Hospitalité at its discretion.

Elections to the Council

8. Elections to the council shall be by ballot and the results announced at the Annual General Meeting. Members shall be elected for a term of 3 years and may seek reelection for another 3 years. Nominations for new Council members, with names of proposer and seconder, should be sent to the Secretary to arrive not less than one month before the AGM.

Council Meetings

9. The council shall meet at least 3 times a year.

Admission to Membership

10. On conclusion of their first pilgrimage all helpers may apply for admission to membership of the Hospitalité. A completed form, signed by the relevant head of service, should be returned to the secretary by 1 January of the following year.

Following approval by the council, applicants will be admitted to membership during their next pilgrimage to Lourdes, having made an Act of Consecration before the Patron or Chaplain.

11. Helpers, after working with the pilgrimage for a further two years as members, may apply for admission to full membership of the Hospitalité. A completed form, signed by the relevant head of service, should be returned to the secretary by 1 January of the following year. Following approval by the council applicants will be admitted to full membership during their next pilgrimage, having made an Act of Consecration before the Patron or Chaplain.

12. The council shall be entitled to admit to the membership any class of person, or any individual person who, in their opinion, renders suitable services to the sick.

Obligations of a Member

13. Members will be expected to help all Pilgrims to Lourdes especially the sick and handicapped.

14. They are encouraged to assist at Mass (especially on The Feasts of Our Lady), to receive Holy Communion and to recite the Rosary, as often as possible.

15. Members will be expected to uphold in their lives, and to encourage in the lives of others, the objects of the Hospitalité.