



Catholic Association Hospitalité of Our Lady of Lourdes

Dear CA Hospitalité Member/Pilgrim,

Each year, the Catholic Association (CA) Hospitalité of Our Lady of Lourdes is responsible for coordinating the welcome and care of our 'assisted pilgrims' - those on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes who have particular care and support needs. For our pilgrimage in August 2012 (24 – 31 August), the CA Hospitalité is appealing for everyone to invite any friends, family members or fellow parishioners who might want to come to Lourdes as an assisted pilgrim, or as a volunteer helper in order to help provide the support that our assisted pilgrims need.

Assisted Pilgrims

Our assisted pilgrims can choose to stay in either a hotel with some basic support given by volunteer helpers (such as wheelchair assistance in getting around town or to services), or in the Accueil Notre Dame, where medical and personal care is provided. Our assisted pilgrims are very much at the heart of our pilgrimage and we welcome anyone interested in coming to this beautiful place in the picturesque Pyrenees. In addition, financial help may be available through your Diocesan/Group Director.

The CA Pilgrimage also includes the Glanfield Children's Group. Since 1987 the group has travelled to Lourdes with many children with learning difficulties, as well as chronic and terminal illness each year. Full details of the work they do can be found on our website.

Volunteer Helpers

Men and women of all ages and backgrounds come to Lourdes as volunteer helpers to answer Our Lady's request for people to 'come in procession', but more importantly they come in response to the command of her son Jesus to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves (Gospel of Mark 12:29-31). These volunteer helpers, who are pilgrims themselves, strive to encounter Jesus in each pilgrim, caring for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. The Catholic Association Hospitalité includes doctors and nurses as well as non-medical helpers, who are known as brancardiers (male) and handmaids (female).

The minimum age for helping is 17 and there is no maximum age. If you are aged 17-25, you can be a part of the Young Helpers' Group (a supervised group staying in a separate hotel).

For those helpers with children, the CA offers the Helpers Children's Programme (HCP). The HCP offers a range of activities for the children of our volunteer helpers. Many of our volunteer helpers who are parents find that this gives them the flexibility they need during the week to work with our assisted pilgrims.

All are welcome and all have an important contribution to make to the community that we form during our pilgrimage week.

On the reverse of this letter, we have produced a poster and would be grateful if this could be placed in your local parish church, local school, or wherever you think people would be interested. Please feel free to be the local contact on the poster too.

Thank you for taking the time to read our letter.

Catholic Association Hospitalité Council

www.catholicassociation.co.uk



CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION PILGRIMAGE 24 - 31 AUGUST 2012



COME ON PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

Each year, the Catholic Association Hospitalité is responsible for coordinating the welcome and care of our 'assisted pilgrims' - those on our annual pilgrimage to Lourdes who have particular care and support needs. Our assisted pilgrims are very much at the heart of our pilgrimage and we welcome anyone interested in coming to this beautiful place in the middle of the Pyrenees. In addition, financial help may be available through your Diocesan/Group Director (details below).

The CA is also keen to encourage individuals to travel to Lourdes as helpers. Men and women of all ages and backgrounds journey to Lourdes as volunteer helpers to answer Mary's request for people to 'come in procession', but more importantly, they also come in response to the command of her son Jesus to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves (Mark 12:29-31). These volunteers, who are pilgrims themselves, strive to encounter Jesus in each pilgrim, caring for their physical, emotional and spiritual well-being. We are always looking for doctors and nurses as well as non-medical helpers to act as brancardiers (male) and handmaids (female).

We are looking for people who might like to come to Lourdes as an assisted pilgrim, or as a volunteer helper in 2012. Please use the contact details below for more information.

CATHOLIC ASSOCIATION PILGRIMAGE 24 - 31 AUGUST 2012

To come on Pilgrimage with the CA, please either contact your Lourdes Diocesan or Group pilgrimage director, or your local contact written below, or simply visit the CA website below.

Local contact: _____

Or visit: www.catholicassociation.co.uk/home/FAQ.shtml

The Catholic Association Pilgrimage currently incorporates the diocesan and group pilgrimages of: Clifton, East Anglia, Northampton, Portsmouth, Southwark, the Glanfield Children's Group, the British Province of Carmelites, and the Stonyhurst College Lourdes Pilgrimage. We also welcome people from outside these groups or dioceses.

Further information on our Pilgrimage and for contact details of your Lourdes Diocesan or Group Director, please visit : www.catholicassociation.co.uk/home/FAQ.shtml or email: contact@catholicassociation.co.uk

