



Lourdes Children/Young Adults Program

*Proposal to create an official program to
benefit the children, young adults and their
caregivers in Lourdes.*

A month prior to the departure date, the member selected to head the Children's Program for the Lourdes Pilgrimage should receive a list of children that are planning on traveling to Lourdes. This list should include:

- Name
- Age
- Indicating if a wheelchair, crutches or braces are needed
- Symptoms of their illness that may affect their participation in the pilgrimage
- Allergies



When selecting pods for the Children's/ Young Adult Program, the following will be taken into consideration:

Emeritus Events

Year of Formation Events

First Year Pilgrim Events

Bespoke Gifts

- *Children and Young Adults receive a special gift upon arriving at the airport. Throughout the pilgrimage, children receive a special gift to encourage them to be patient while waiting for activities to begin.*



The following events
should be highlighted
in the black book for
The Children's/Young
Adult Program:

*Many are currently noted, but it
would benefit everyone to
highlight all events in the black
book.*





Getting to Know You
*Friday, 9:00 – 9:25 am Bartres
Room*

- The children will gather to play an icebreaker game so that they have an opportunity to meet one another prior to embarking on the Footsteps of Bernadette. In the past, we have played Who Nu and Favorites Bingo so that the children can find things that they have in common. The activity is modified based on the children's abilities so that everyone has an opportunity to participate.*

The Footsteps of Bernadette

Friday, 9:30 Footsteps of Bernadette

- Charioteers assemble in the parking lot across from the Alba. The group travels through the Footsteps of Bernadette, led by Father Ian, beginning at the Boly Mill, where Bernadette Soubirous was born. We continue to walk to the Cachot. Inside the Cachot, Father Ian talks to the group about the struggles the Soubirous Family faced at this time. Then we travel to Bernadette's Baptismal Font where we all renew our baptismal promise.*



Children's Recreation Saturday, Monday 1:00

- This activity is for children ages 12 and under. We meet and participate in free play and organized games and crafts to give the children an opportunity to form bonds with their new friends.*




Young Adult Reflections Saturday, Monday 1:00

- *This activity is for young adults ages 13- 18. Young adults can participate in reflections with a member of the clergy, if this is developmentally appropriate. If not, they are welcome to join the younger children for Recreation.*



Children's Dinner Saturday

- *Children ages 12 and under will eat together at a designated hotel as a group with their Caregivers and one member of their team. This will give the children more time to socialize as a group and will also make it easier for the caregivers to break off to go to Caregiver's night out together and eliminates confusion for the children and young adults.*
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Young Adult's Dinner Saturday

- *Young adults ages 13-18 who participated in the Young Adult Reflections accompany Father Ian and the leader of the reflections with one member of their team to a restaurant offsite that will meet their dietary needs. The hope is that this opportunity allows for the older children to bond as a group following their participation in reflections.*




Children's/ Young Adult's Night Out Saturday 8:30 pm

- *The children meet in the lobby and walk to Peter's for a special treat that meets their dietary restrictions. The Young Adult group rejoin the younger children at Peter's at this time. We play games and eat our treats. Later, we return to the Bartres Room to watch a movie. Once the Caregivers are back from Caregiver's Night Out, they may meet the children in the Bartres room.*



Children's Mass Sunday, 10:00

- *In the grass area outside the Alba hotel, chairs and a tent are set up for the children to worship. Children participate in all aspects of the mass. They are our readers, share the intentions and if able, serve during the Mass. During the mass, the children will share their silent intentions with a partner who will scribe them on a piece of paper if necessary. After mass, those intentions will be tied to a balloon and will be released at the same time that the balloons are released on the prairie.*

A photograph of a man in a black jacket with an "AMERICAN U.S.A." patch and a young man in a white t-shirt playfully hitting each other with wooden paddles. In the background, a woman in a white dress and red jacket stands near a stone wall. A sign in the background reads "JARDIN BOTANIQUE".

Trip to the Fort Sunday, 12:00

- We meet in the parking lot across from the Alba and process to the park off the Rue du Fort at the base of the fort. The Emeritus van delivers bag lunches carefully prepared by the hotel Mediteranee to meet all of the children and young adults dietary restrictions. All will dine in the park. After lunch, we will process to the Fort where children, caregivers and team members will explore the fort at their leisure.*



Stations of The Cross

Monday, 11:00

- *Father Ian walks the children through the Stations of the Cross from a youngster's point of view and relates Jesus' journey to their daily struggles. He compares those who Jesus encounters on his journey to the people in our lives that help us along the way and is happy to answer questions along the journey.*



Thank you for your consideration.

We currently have a wonderful program in place and it is unique to our association. I have met with members of the Federal Association to share our program. To date, I believe we are the only group to provide special programming for our young adults and children in Lourdes and I believe that it is to our benefit to highlight this program.