In 2011, the symptoms of multiple sclerosis became more and more onerous for Emanuela: she had already lost her sight, the progression was inexorable, and in addition to cramps and spasms, she experienced devastating pain throughout her whole nervous system. Emanuela was now nourished and hydrated by infusion.

At the beginning of 2016 the last stages of the disease appeared: she could no longer bear the pain without being confined to bed and the help of morphine.

"In the spring, my mother wanted to offer me a pilgrimage to Lourdes for my birthday," Emanuela recalls. "She insisted so much that, in spite of my precarious condition, we made the fifteen hour trip by bus. My husband Paolo and I began to feel a great desire in our hearts to thank Our Lady for the gift of life and for our love which can face all challenges". On 3rd June, date of the First Communion of Bernadette Soubirous, Emanuela was dipped in the Baths of the Sanctuary of Lourdes. Everyone remained open-mouthed before the expression on her face suddenly freed from all suffering. She was transformed, resplendent with an absolute joy, luminous, serene beyond what one could imagine. "In the water I did not pray for myself, but for my family," said Emanuela, "that we may have strength and faith. I immediately felt a well-being and inner peace that I cannot describe and that I still carry within me". Once outside, she looked at Paolo: they both understood that they had just experienced something wonderful. From this day onwards the pain in Emanuela’s nervous system disappeared, as well as the convulsive cough which threatened to choke her.

The parish priest said he was witness to a great grace, and the neurologist at the Piacenza hospital acknowledged in his medical report of 29th June 2016 "some improvements not attributable to treatment, scientifically inexplicable progress". This document was submitted to the International Medical Committee of Lourdes. Emanuela and Paolo wanted to give it personally to Pope Francis when he visited Assisi.

"This grace came unexpectedly after a long journey of discernment and abandonment to the will of the Lord who saved me from a very difficult situation," says Emanuela with a beautiful smile. "Every day I feel that He sustains me with the patience of a father and that Our Lady of Lourdes consoles me with all the tenderness of a mother".

Besides the unexplained physical cures attributed to Our Lady of Lourdes, officially recognised as miraculous by the bishops of the diocese in which the persons cured reside (69 to date), we receive many testimonies of graces received in Lourdes. We share these stories on the following pages.
From Mexico, before each operation he logs on to Lourdes...

My name is Francisco. My family and I live in Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico. A few years ago my sister Eva was knocked down by a truck. During the accident she suffered a skull fracture with loss of brain mass, severe wounds on both legs and hypovolemic shock (sudden decrease in blood volume). With such severe wounds and haemorrhages, the expected prognosis was death. The first miracle we received was that one of the best neurosurgeons in the country agreed to operate ... She has since undergone multiple surgical interventions. We, her family, have experienced moments of great anguish and despair, but Our Lady of Lourdes has accompanied us throughout. Shortly after being informed of my sister’s critical condition, I remembered a picture of Our Lady of Lourdes which a friend had given me after a visit to the Sanctuary. With great devotion we entrusted Eva to Her and prayed a lot. We deposited our prayer intention through the website of the Sanctuary during each operation. This period was exhausting. Another miracle is that my sister has no serious after-effects of the accident, whereas the neurosurgeon predicted irreversible consequences. Today, my sister works, moves and leads a normal life. All this we owe to God, our Lord, through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes. We also thank God for all those who have supported us through their prayers.

Francisco (Mexico)

“Waiting for retirement in despair, or finding another way forward?”

I was an English teacher at a college and the weariness and discouragement, faced with unmotivated teenagers, grew from day to day. My retired husband was a brancardier with the Rosary pilgrimage, and told me every year, on his return from Lourdes, about the emotions and joys he shared with the sick, pilgrims and other Hospitality members. During the get-together on his return to Le Havre (France) in November 2011, I began to talk with other Hospitality members and I regained some strength and motivation to take stock of my life. What was the meaning of my life? Waiting for retirement in despair, or finding another way forward? Thanks to the words full of joy and hope of the hospitaliers, I regained a taste for personal prayer and started the administrative process to obtain a break in my career. Jokingly, I said, “Pray that my request is accepted and I will come with you to Lourdes for the Rosary pilgrimage”. And you can guess what happened... Today I give thanks. For the past four years I have been a hospitalier with the Hospitality of Normandy for the Rosary pilgrimage. I accompany my husband to Lourdes for a stage with the Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes. I can now walk past the College without stress and I am happy to have discovered the Sanctuary of Lourdes, this place of comfort. As long as my health permits I shall return to give thanks and accompany those who need it. I wish that all those who are looking for an answer to their questions may have their prayers answered just as mine have been.

Patricia (France)

HER HUSBAND HAD ASKED FOR THE GRACE NOT TO SUFFER

My husband passed away peacefully last year after six years of illness: leukaemia, then four other types of cancer and a serious eventration. Former member of the Hospitality of Our Lady of Lourdes, he had asked her for the grace of protection and alleviation of his suffering. He remained lucid to the end and never suffered to the astonishment of his doctors. I replied that it was his faith that preserved him. They remained sceptical. As for me, as long as I can, I shall come again to serve and give thanks to Our Lady of Lourdes.

Janine (France)

Let us pray for the grace to never grow tired of drawing from the well of the Father’s mercy and bringing it to the world.

23 April 2017

Pope Francis
@Pontifex
If you wish your case to be subject to further rigorous medical investigation, under strict medical secrecy, we invite you to contact the Doctor in charge of the Medical Bureau of the Sanctuary of Lourdes: email: bmedical@lourdes-france.com Tel. (+33) (0)5 62 42 79 08

If you have received a grace in connection with Lourdes, write your testimony in the space below. You may leave it at the Information Centre or send it to the following address: Lourdes, le Journal des Grâces – 1, avenue Mgr Théas – 65108 Lourdes Cedex or to temoignage@lourdes-france.com

HE RECEIVED A GRACE STANDING IN FRONT OF THE GROTTO

I am 28 and I live in Guatemala City. In 2012, I felt a deep need to entrust myself to Our Lady of Lourdes. In 2015, I had the extraordinary opportunity to travel to Europe. I hesitated because I was finishing my studies at university. But something inside me told me that this pilgrimage was necessary. I made the pilgrimage with an aunt. The stay in Lourdes was rich, but too short. Back in my country, I graduated without any major difficulty. I felt that I should return to Lourdes and spend more time with the Virgin Mary, deepening my knowledge of the message of Mary to Saint Bernadette. In July 2016 I had an opportunity to return. This time I went with my grandmother, a fervent Catholic who always dreamt of making this pilgrimage. She taught me the values of the Catholic faith. In Lourdes, standing in front of the Grotto, I felt the close and loving presence of the Virgin Mary. The grace I received is to have understood that Our Lady has always been with me, listening to the least of my needs. Today, very often, I recount my experience of Lourdes and I invite all those who can to answer the call of heaven. I can assure everyone that God and the Virgin Mary hear our prayers and help us to overcome our difficulties. Let us not forget to give thanks.

Rodrigo (Guatemala)

"A revelation for me and a miracle for my daughter"

Testimony of a mother given to the Office of Medical Observations of Lourdes in May 2015.

In 2014 I came to the Sanctuary of Lourdes with my daughter aged 3 and a half. She suffered from autoimmune neutropenia diagnosed in May 2012. One month before the pilgrimage her blood balance showed a 2% neutrophils count which is an indication of severe neutropenia. One month after our return from Lourdes, this count had risen to 6% (the upper level). The following year, her count was normal, prompting the remark from the doctor, “We could envisage a possible cure”. I must tell you that I am an atheist and that my daughter has not received any religious education. Nonetheless a visit to Lourdes seemed obvious to me. I had to go there. We went to the Baths on the second day. When we came out, I knew that my daughter was cured. I can hardly explain what happened. After the second bath, I knew that I had to go back alone, to immerse myself completely. When I came with my daughter, I did not really understand why. I left, however, convinced that something had happened. Today I am happy that my daughter is cured. Above all, I have found faith, faith in something that surpasses us totally. I thank the Sanctuary of Lourdes for its welcome, its listening, its benevolence and above all the love that we felt. This journey was a revelation and, in my eyes, a miracle for my daughter.

Farid (Guatemala)