

# ARCHCONFRATERNITY

*"Family of Our Lady of Lourdes"*

## *Guidelines* *of the Archconfraternity*



SANCTUAIRE NOTRE-DAME DE  
LOURDES

## ACT OF TRUST in Mary



*Blessed be God, our Father for having created Mary so beautiful and for having given her to us as Mother at the foot of the Cross of Jesus.*

*Blessed are You for having called us, like Bernadette, to see Mary in Your light and to drink from the wellspring of Your Heart. Mary, You know the misery and the sin of our lives and the life of the world.*

*We want to trust ourselves to You today, totally and without reserve. From You we will be reborn each day by the power of the Spirit. We will live the life of Jesus as little servants of our brothers.*

*Teach us, Mary, to bear the life of the Lord. Teach us the “yes” of your heart.*

# NOTES





The Confraternity of the Immaculate Conception, canonically established at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes by the Bishop of Tarbes, December 8, 1872, was made an Archconfraternity by Pope Pius IX and then Pope Leo XIII, first for France and then for the whole world.

During the Jubilee Year of Mercy, 2015-2016, Most Reverend Nicolas Brouwet, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, desired to make a sign of a greater commitment of all (persons, families, communities, shrines, institutions) to the service of the mission entrusted by Mary to Bernadette at Lourdes, so that the Church may show herself ever more as an oasis of mercy, offering wounded bodies and hearts the wellspring of healing and forgiveness.

The means to make ever more present, in all areas of life, the grace of the apparition at the Grotto of Massabielle. Four years after the proclamation of her taintless conception, the Mother of God revealed her name to Bernadette when she said, March 25, "I am the Immaculate Conception". United by the bonds of prayer and charity, the persons and institutions concerned will allow "the noise like a gust of wind" which was heard in Lourdes February 11, 1858, and the light that was seen, to be perceived still by the hearts of many.

## ARTICLE 1. GOALS OF THE ARCHCONFRATERNITY:

- to honor the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, by renewing faith in the forgiveness of sins. We recognize that grace precedes and is waiting for us. It is always available in the heart of Mary, «younger» than sin;
- to raise prayer of thanksgiving to the Father of Mercies;
- to pray and do penance for sinners, working for the «Christian renewal of society» called for by Pope Pius XII in his Encyclical, *The Lourdes Pilgrimage*, July 2, 1957;
- to encourage the birth of small churches or chapels that manifest the joy of living together as brothers and sisters, and to collaborate on the journey of the people of God to the Holy City where God will be all in all.



## ARTICLE 2. -MEMBERS

The “Family of Our Lady of Lourdes” gathers Christians who want to renew the grace of their baptism, with the help of Mary. It is intended for:

- Employees or volunteers of the Sanctuary who consecrate their lives in a new way to the service of Our Lady: «active members»;
- Sick people, former employees, or volunteers who have stopped their active service, and who support the life of the Sanctuary by their friendship and their prayer: «friends or praying members»;
- Benefactors who provide material assistance: «benefactor members», and those who want to support the commitment of a person less fortunate in the service of Our Lady: «sponsors»;
- Sanctuaries, communities, and institutions which carry the name of Our Lady of Lourdes, Massabielle, or Saint Bernadette: «associate members» or «affiliates».

The deceased can be entered in a special register, and are thus made present at the prayer and the Mass each Saturday at the Grotto. Children below 10 years old can be placed under the protection of Mary and Bernadette



## ARTICLE 3. PRACTICES

The members of the archconfraternity keep in their hearts:

- To make the Sign of the Cross well and to pray all or part of the Rosary each day, especially on Marian feasts and on the anniversary of the apparitions at the Grotto. Each day they will say their “Act of Trust in Mary”.
- To kiss the ground, like Bernadette during the Apparitions, and to look each day for occasions for gestures of penitence and joyful humility.
- To receive the sacrament of Reconciliation at least once a month, if possible, and the Eucharist each Sunday, loving to worship Jesus in the Sacred Host.
- To participate in a group, a small community of Christian life at the service of the Church, to proclaim the good news and to pray for the intentions of the Pope.
- To work in the service of brothers, practicing works of mercy and committing oneself, each according to the call of the Spirit, so that this world be transformed by the grace of the Gospel.



## ARTICLE 4 - MEETINGS OF GRACE

The members of the Family of Our Lady of Lourdes will come together on pilgrimage in Lourdes, physically or spiritually, during the octave of the 15th of August each year, especially for the feast of the Queenship of Mary, August 22nd. They are invited to make an offering to the Sanctuary each year, according to their means. They will be granted a plenary indulgence the day of the anniversary of their affiliation as well as December 8, February 11, March 25, and August 15 and 22, subject to the ordinary conditions determined by the Church (confession, communion, prayer for the intentions of the Pope). The indulgence may be applied to the souls in Purgatory. Each Saturday, the intentions of the members are brought to the prayer of the Mass and Rosary at the Grotto.

The members of the Family of Our Lady of Lourdes receive the blue scapular of Mary and Bernadette. A letter unites them, giving witness to the meetings of grace, in Lourdes and in their daily lives.





## ARTICLE 5: ORGANIZATION, ADMISSION AND AGGREGATION

The Archconfraternity has its center in the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. It has a moderator, the Rector of the Sanctuary, assisted by a Council named by the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, who is the first superior.

Persons and institutions who wish to be admitted to the Archconfraternity make their request to the moderator. Persons indicate the place and date of their baptism. Admission is granted for three years, and must be renewed. A membership card is issued to them, and their name is entered in a special register.

Some brotherhoods or fraternities with the same goal and the same name can be aggregated to the Archconfraternity family. Aggregation is made by the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, after the consent of the Ordinary of the place where the new brotherhood is erected.





## **PRAYER** of Bernadette to the Queen of Heaven

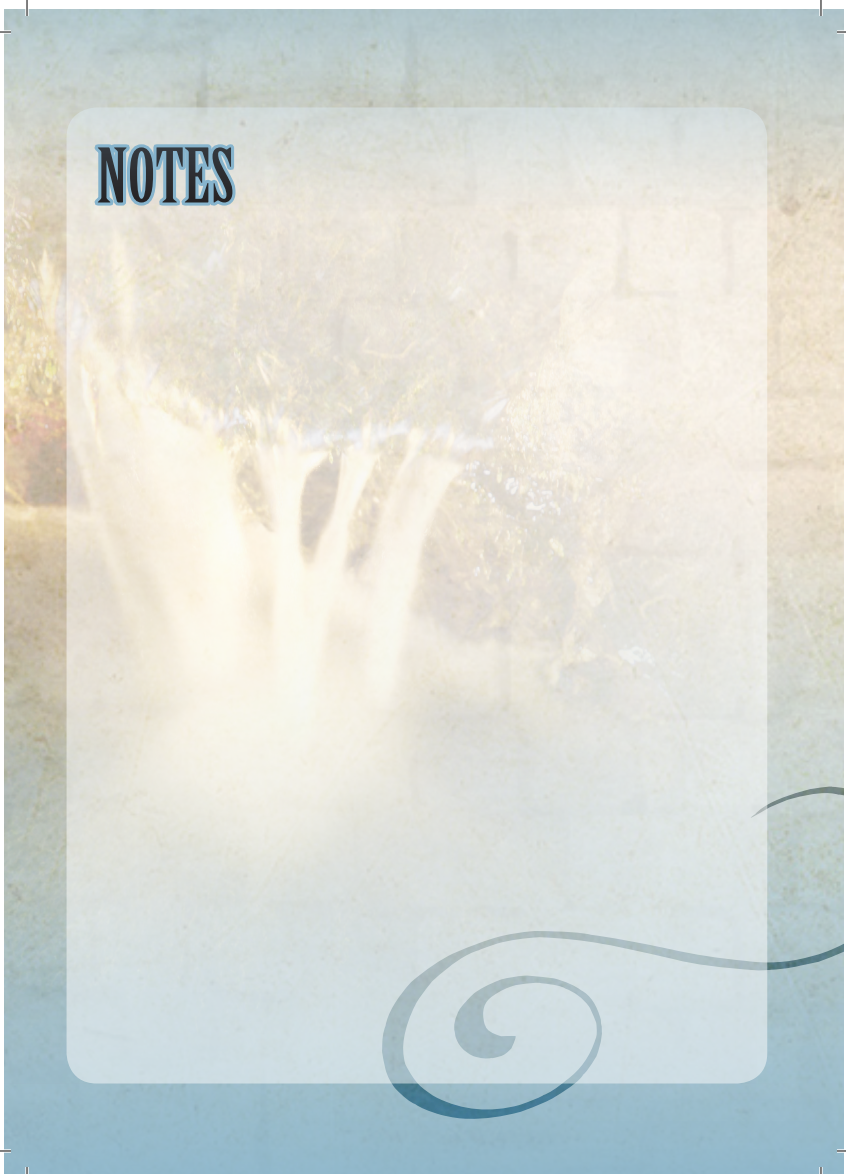
*How joyful was my soul, Oh good Mother when  
I had the happiness of seeing you!*

*How I like to remember those sweet moments  
under your gaze, your eyes full of goodness and  
mercy for us. Yes, dear Mother, you lowered  
yourself to the earth to appear to a weak child  
and communicate certain things, despite her  
great unworthiness. How she lacks humility!*

*You, the Queen of Heaven and Earth, have  
wanted to use that which is weakest according  
to the world.*

*Oh Mary, give to the one who dares to call her-  
self your child, this precious virtue of humility.  
Oh loving Mother, make your child imitate you  
in all for all. In a word, may I be a child accor-  
ding to your heart and that of your dear Son.*

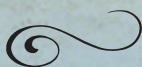
# NOTES







SANCTUAIRE NOTRE-DAME DE  
**LOURDES**



**Contact - [famillendl@lourdes-france.com](mailto:famillendl@lourdes-france.com)**

*Impression : EURL basilique du Rosaire - Photos : Pierre Vincent*