

Help us to create a new safe place for the Youth

Today, there is an urgent need to update the facilities to make the Village fit for the 21st century. Not only in terms of basic comforts but through providing living quarters which place 'child safeguarding' as a top priority.

Fixed indoor bed capacity will be increased from 380 beds to 450, while ensuring that the tented village is also state of the art, replacing the existing tents. New en-suite bedrooms will be created for adult supervisors, group leaders and priests.

The two kitchen and dining facilities urgently need upgrading, as does the existing 'sports field', an important part of recreation for young people in their downtime.

As well as new wooden steps leading to the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, a new bell tower will be built. The construction of a new path to the Chapel in late 2022 means that the Youth Village is now fully accessible to wheelchair users.

At the centre of the site a new 'place of encounter' will be created with a covered area

ideal for events, meetings or just 'hanging out' together, with a cafe serving soft beverages. The installation of raked seating will mean that this area can also be used for presentations as well as entertainment.

The existing structures have not been renovated in over 50 years, so naturally there are external works that need to be done, including thermal and acoustic insulation of all the buildings, roof insulation, new cladding and replacement of exterior woodworks as well as demolition and replacement of the existing storage area.

All of these works will be complemented by the creation of a new entrance to the Youth Village itself, signalling a warm and welcoming beginning for the young people visiting.

In 2022 French Scouts built a path from the Youth Village over the hill to the entrance of the Shrine, making it quick and easy for young people to directly access the Youth Village at the end of their day of service, avoiding the busy twisting road.

Faith in their Future

Sustainability is also a major priority. Not just financial self-sufficiency, but also a heightened awareness of 'Our Common Home' as Pope Francis elucidated in 'Laudato Si'.

The vision for the next few years includes new landscaping, the installation of a central fountain feature, revegetation, the planting of indigenous trees and shrubs to replace the pine

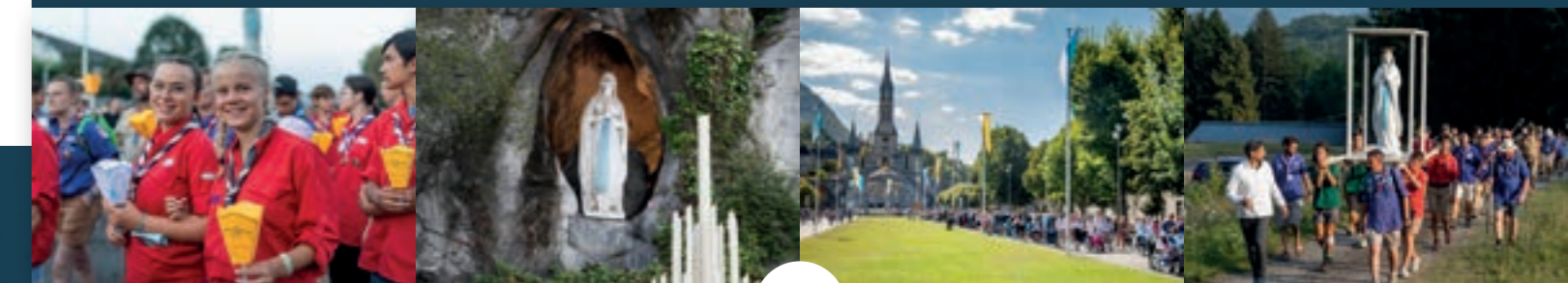
trees and solar panels to provide power, lighting and heating.

The World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, with 30,000 young people passing through Lourdes marked the kick-off for these essential works ensuring that this beautiful resource for young pilgrims, providing an enriched experience of Lourdes, is sustainable for the next 50 years.



Vision Lourdes 2030

The Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes *Youth Village*



A haven of peace,
10 minutes' walk from the Grotto

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Reimagining a Youth Village for the future

As well as the sick and those in search of healing, physically, mentally and spiritually, the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes also attracts thousands of young people every year.

They come in youth groups, sometimes in Scout groups or with their parishes or dioceses, from around the world. Often they come on a mission of service: to help pilgrims who are sick or have a disability. As well as Catholics, there are young people from all faith backgrounds.

The old farm bought in 1935, just a mile from the Grotto, has become a dedicated space for young people. Set in 15 hectares (37 acres) at the top of Mount Espelugues, the Youth Village is a peaceful haven of lush meadows surrounded by the natural beauty of the mountains of the lower Pyrenees.



A serene place to encounter God, Nature and Friendship

Currently the Youth Village can house 380 young people and their supervisors in dormitories and cabins and an additional 3,000 young people can be accommodated in tents.

outdoor sites for liturgical celebrations) and reflect on the experiences of the day, experiences that often turn out to be life-changing.

The Youth Village provides a safe place at the end of a busy day ministering to the sick. A place where young people can enjoy nature and each other's company, a place to meditate and pray (as well as a permanent chapel there are two

The space is designed for encounters, both with each other, with nature and with God. Pilgrimage life can be very busy and so to have somewhere close to the Sanctuary and yet, at the same time remote, where young people can withdraw from the hustle and bustle, is important.

Over 80 years of history

Since its inception in 1936, the Youth Village has gone from strength to strength. First entrusted to the French Scouting movement, the camp has been managed by the Diocese of Lourdes since 1972, but it really took off in 1976 with the establishment of a youth pastoral service at the Sanctuary. Over the years it has become a place of life and exchange between young people from

all over the world; that is why it was renamed 'Youth Village' when it was formally inaugurated in May 1978. Since 2022 an on-site family living in the Youth Village provides an important oversight of the program for the youth as well as pastoral care away from home. Full-time chaplain Father Maxence heads up the Youth Service at the Sanctuary.

YOUTH VILLAGE VISION PLAN

Estimated : 5 045 000 euros

Creation of a Village Square

- Landscaping
- Installation of a water fountain (central)
- Improve accessibility to the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Renovation of the outdoor restaurant and bar area

Renovation of the "Belledone" kitchen (22 sq.m)

- Rehabilitation of the building into a shared kitchen for small groups
- Equipment for the cooking and storage area.

Redevelopment of the "Nazareth" catering building (347 sq.m)

- Restoration of food halls and kitchens
- Exterior Insulation (ETICS) and replacement of exterior cladding
- Acoustic improvement and decoration

Modernisation of the "Dortoir JL" (JL Dormitory) prefab (185 sq.m)

- Wooden cladding of exterior facades for a better integration in the landscape
- Thermal insulation for summer comfort (exterior walls and plenum)
- Creation of 2 private bedrooms for the guides (with bathroom and WC)

Redevelopment of the "Moulin" accommodation building (1103 sq.m)

- Creation of private bedrooms for guides (with bathroom and WC)
- Roof insulation
- Exterior Insulation (ETICS) and replacement of exterior cladding

Creation of a conviviality space - "Astruc" Area (48 sq.m)

- Demolition of the existing storage area
- Construction of a wooden awning to create a space of conviviality and games

Signposting improvement

- Design and development of simple, multilingual and accessible signage

A redesigned entrance to the Village

- Creation of a turning area for buses and a drop area.
- Redefining the parking zone and stacking.

Transformation of the "Cenacle" building into a reception point for Scouts (52 sq.m)

- Rehabilitation of the existing storage area into a reception point for Scouts
- Creation of a meeting room, a kitchen and a food storage area.
- Creation of a wooden terrace balcony overlooking the young Scouts' camping areas

Creation of a multi-sport field (citystade)

- Gathering of several sports activities in the same stadium, with free access.
- Creation of a friendly pétanque (bocce) area.

Enhancement of the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel

- Creation of a wooden staircase to access the chapel
- Revegetation
- Construction of an outer bell tower

Renovation of the "Bethlehem" accommodation and catering building (666 sq.m)

- Restoration of food halls and kitchens
- Dormitory redevelopment
- Private bathroom and WC for each guide's bedroom
- Thermal and acoustic insulation of the whole building
- Roof insulation
- Exterior Insulation (ETICS) and replacement of exterior cladding

Redevelopment of the "Emmaüs" accommodation building (489 sq.m)

- Creation of private bedrooms for the guides (with bathroom and WC)
- Thermal insulation of the whole building
- Roof insulation
- Exterior Insulation (ETICS) and replacement of exterior cladding

Redevelopment of the "Cana" catering building (420 sq.m)

- Creation of 6 private bedrooms for the priests (with bathroom and WC)
- Dormitory redevelopment
- Exterior Insulation (ETICS) and replacement of exterior cladding
- Acoustic improvement and decoration

Construction of wooden cottages (750 sq.m)

- Replacement of existing tents
- Unique cottage size and model for an economy of scale in manufacturing
- Solar panel equipment
- Participation in Scout worksite



Presentation Youth Village