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 also in 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 safe serving of soft beverages. The installation of raked seating will mean that this area can also be used for presentations as well as entertainment.

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.
A serene place to encounter God, Nature and Friendship

Currently the Youth Village can house 280 young people and their supervisors in dormitories and cabins and an additional 3500 young people can be accommodated in tents. The Youth Village provides a safe place at the end of a busy day ministering to the sick. A place where young people can withdraw from the hustle and bustle, is important.

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 at the same time remote, where young people can withdraw from the hustle and bustle, is important.

Creation of a Multi-sport Field

Creation of a multi-sport field (citystaedt)

• Gathering of several sports activities in the same stadium with free access
• Creation of a friendly pataque (boissi) area

Over 80 years of history

Since its inception in 1936, the Youth Village has gone from strength to strength if one ventured back 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 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 provide pastoral care to sick young people. As well as Catholics, there are young people from other faiths.

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.

Creation of a Village Square

Creation of a Village Square (3103 sq.m)

• Installation of a water fountain (central)
• Interpretation panels of the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
• Renovation of the outdoor restaurant and area

Reimaging a Youth Village for the future

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

Since its inception in 1936, the Youth Village has gone from strength to strength if one ventured back 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 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 provide pastoral care to sick young people. As well as Catholics, there are young people from other faiths.

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 redesigned entrance to the Village

Creation of a multi-sport field (citystaedt)

• Gathering of several sports activities in the same stadium with free access
• Creation of a friendly pataque (boissi) area

Reimaging a Youth Village for the future

As well as the site and its use 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 provide pastoral care to sick young people. As well as Catholics, there are young people from other faiths.

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.

Creation of a Village Square

Creation of a Village Square (3103 sq.m)

• Installation of a water fountain (central)
• Interpretation panels of the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
• Renovation of the outdoor restaurant and area

Reimaging a Youth Village for the future

As well as the site and its use 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 provide pastoral care to sick young people. As well as Catholics, there are young people from other faiths.

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.

Creation of a Village Square

Creation of a Village Square (3103 sq.m)

• Installation of a water fountain (central)
• Interpretation panels of the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
• Renovation of the outdoor restaurant and area

Reimaging a Youth Village for the future

As well as the site and its use 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 provide pastoral care to sick young people. As well as Catholics, there are young people from other faiths.

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.

Creation of a Village Square

Creation of a Village Square (3103 sq.m)

• Installation of a water fountain (central)
• Interpretation panels of the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
• Renovation of the outdoor restaurant and area

Reimaging a Youth Village for the future

As well as the site and its use 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 provide pastoral care to sick young people. As well as Catholics, there are young people from other faiths.

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.

Creation of a Village Square

Creation of a Village Square (3103 sq.m)

• Installation of a water fountain (central)
• Interpretation panels of the Chapel of Our Lady of Mount Carmel
• Renovation of the outdoor restaurant and area

Reimaging a Youth Village for the future

As well as the site and its use 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 provide pastoral care to sick young people. As well as Catholics, there are young people from other faiths.

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.