



Bishop's House
PO Box 40
Summerhill
Wexford

(To be read at Mass this weekend)

January 9, 2015

Dear Father,

In keeping with a time honoured tradition I write to you early in the New Year to invite and encourage you to consider coming on pilgrimage to Lourdes as part of the Diocesan pilgrimage from 17 – 22 May.

Lourdes resonates in a special way with people coping with infirmity through illness or advanced years, whose presence at the Shrine is especially treasured. Some come regularly to seek solace, comfort and hope through prayerful intercession of Mary amidst personal or family circumstances. Others come to lend their vigour and good-will by assisting with the spiritual and physical needs of our pilgrims. Regardless of what draws us to Lourdes, each one comes as a pilgrim: to ponder the presence of God in the twists and turns of life.

Year on year I am edified by the number of repeat pilgrims who value the experience of Lourdes and have a particular appreciation of its meaning and value. Perhaps you would consider volunteering your services to the Diocesan Pilgrimage staff? Becoming a helper does not diminish the experience of being a pilgrim, but enhances it through service to others. Bishop, Pilgrimage Directors, Chaplains and members of Hospitalité are themselves pilgrims first and foremost. With common purpose, they lead and assist the full and fruitful participation of fellow-pilgrims in the spiritual and liturgical opportunities during our time at Lourdes. Should you feel so motivated your willingness to assist would be greatly appreciated and may be indicated on the Pilgrimage Booking Form.

I look forward to leading the Lourdes pilgrimage again in 2015. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the sacrifices and generosity of people throughout the Diocese who contribute in a variety of practical ways to making possible this spiritual sojourn that has the power to give hope and joy, ease and comfort.

With every good wish, I remain,

Yours sincerely

✠Denis Brennan

Bishop of Ferns