



## **74th French Montfort Pilgrimage to Lourdes**

**LOURDES, France** - From April 16 to 22, 2023 the Montfortian Hospitality of France celebrated its 74th Pilgrimage to Lourdes. This year's theme was inspired by the instruction of the Virgin Mary to the priests of the Parish of Lourdes through the voice of Bernadette: "Let us build a chapel here".

As every year, the Montfortian Pilgrimage lived his great celebrations at the Basilica of Saint Pius X, as well as the Mass at the Grotto and the beautiful Eucharistic and Marian processions. As every year, the various typical Lourdes activities such as the Path of the Cross, the prayer of the Rosary, the Liturgy of Water, Confession, as well as the teachings and testimonies made an impression. As every year, well surrounded by companions, many sick people received the sacrament of Anointing with great emotion and a good number of hospital volunteers joined officially the Montfortian hospitality. As every year the pilgrimage, after all its community and individual moments, received the sending by Bishop Gilles COTE, SMM who chaired it.

To mark the 350th anniversary of the birth of Saint Louis-Marie de Montfort, this year the Montfort Hospitality offered two new initiatives. First the show "Le Père de Montfort à Lourdes" offered at the Esplanade du Rosaire, Wednesday evening, at the end of the Candle Procession. This "sound and

light" show attracted many people, even beyond the participants in the Pelé Montfort. Then, the staging "Montfort, builder of love" at the Basilica of Saint Pius X, Friday morning April 21, where the 95 young people of Le Lien offered a remarkable presentation of the Montfortian Family by involving the public with songs and a "cardboard" construction of a chapel on the platform of the Basilica.

The pilgrimage, which saw the participation of around 3,000 people, including 272 sick people, has been scheduled for next year (April 14-20, 2024).

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