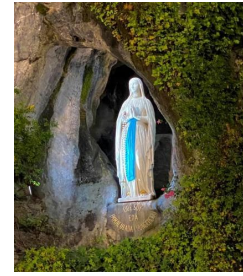




Pilgrimage to Lourdes by the Order of Malta Our Lady of Immaculate Conception, Pray for Us. St. Bernadette, Pray for Us.



Reflections of Jizelle Oliva

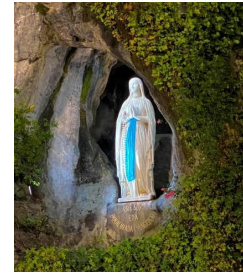
It has been such a remarkable blessing to travel to Lourdes, France, on a pilgrimage this September along with The Order of Malta. I am filled with gratitude & humility to be chosen to travel here knowing that some are less able to come. There is no assurance that coming here will result in miracles. But to me, traveling here is a miracle enough. To be in remission is a miracle. To see my Dad recover from his illness is a miracle. To feel the presence of our Mother Mary & Jesus Christ through all of you is a miracle.



I came to Lourdes to seek healing. But I realized it was not only for me anymore, but also for everyone else. For those who are not able to make it here. For those who are sicker. And of course... for our St. Augustine Parishioners. Thank you for entrusting me with your sacred petitions. Thank you for letting me be an instrument between you and our Blessed Mother. I truly hope that she may hear and answer your prayers.



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Folder contains all Petitions
of St. Augustine parishioners
and their friends to the Our
Lady of Lourdes

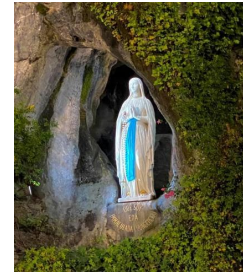
Click [here](#) for Video

This unique opportunity gave me a sense of peace and a closer relationship with God and the Blessed Virgin. By pouring the Healing Water during the ceremonious bath on my hands, on my face, in my mouth and on my affected foot that has some lingering numbness for more than a year after surgery and chemotherapy, I was given some hope by the Blessed Mother because of a subtle yet improved sensation of numbness in my foot later that night, which may be described as my miracle.

My biggest thanks to Father [Raymund Reyes](#) for being the reason we were all able to experience this. Along with my "2nd parents", Tita [Vivian](#) & Tito [Glenn](#), who have helped with applications



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& who have taken risks to come & make this trip even more memorable. Thanks of course to my Mom, Dad, Ninang, friends & family for your everlasting support in this journey 🙏

Reflections of Oscar Oliva

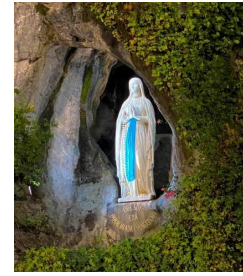
Here are some of Lourdes, France Pilgrimage images that our own St. Augustine Church representatives (OLIVA & Ramos families) created alongside my own reflection. They are long overdue since our return this September 2021. I feel we owe our parishioners a thankful gesture for entrusting us to bring their formalized 250 + healing petitions in body & spirit closer to original home of our miraculous Lady and St. Bernadette with the help of the organization called Order of Malta which sponsored Jizelle Oliva.



It is hard for me to say what miracles I received or felt from our visit to miraculous Immaculate Conception. For me, they are not clearly spelled out. I can thank Her for many blessings that are like miracles such as my child's cancer remission as we prayed for her intercession through her



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long therapy; enjoying Jizelle's friendly & positive talents that she shares with us, Church, & others; my heart and head illness recovery that allowed me to travel & rejuvenate; feeling good for opportunity to visit Her original home of miracles through the Order of Malta & Jizelle; enjoying safe protection from viral pandemic & fatalities as we pray for those affected by them; feeling humble to accept any God's plan for us; and joy for the approval of a gift plan for Jizelle and family from another foundation

Reflections of Janet Oliva

What was your most memorable experience of the pilgrimage? "It was so memorable to visit the home of our Blessed Mother Mary and feel her presence. So blessed to visit the grotto and learn about the history and humility of St. Bernadette. I am so blessed to be with my family and friends and the Order of Malta."

What is your mission now that you are back in the U.S.? My mission is to continue to pray and be thankful to God and Mama Mary, especially for the complete recovery for Jizelle and the whole world.

Reflections of Fe Sjoberg (Jizelle's "Ninang" or Godmother)

What was your most memorable experience of the pilgrimage? "I will never forget the daily exposure to the Lord and our Mother Mary. Most special was having to receive the Eucharist everyday! That was awesome and something I did not do much before."

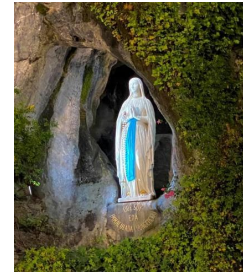
What is your mission now that you are back in the U.S.?

"I will continue to connect more with Mama Mary. I felt that before Lourdes, I really only acknowledged and prayed to Papa Jesus and not Mama Mary. Ever since the trip, I've been praying the Mother Mary prayers every morning. I think that was what protected me from my car accident. A few days after Lourdes, my car was totaled, but I was not injured whatsoever! That's a miracle!

Also, I prayed for healing for my blood pressure and my stiff fingers that made it difficult to close and open my hands the last few months. I noticed that after the trip, my blood pressure has



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been staying low and that my hands have improved greatly. Our Lady of Lourdes, thank you! Pray for us.”

Reflections of Vivian Ramos

When I first visited Lourdes five years ago, I was blessed, literally! A stream of its healing water under the grotto rained on me. It knocked me down to my knees and I wept. And as I stepped onto the “bath,” I felt the Holy Spirit again and his overwhelming love, which I couldn’t express in words. It brought me again to tears and down on my knees. I promised to be back!

However, I had no plans to join this year’s Order of Malta pilgrimage. Registration has closed, booklets have been printed with all the 300 pilgrims’ photos, and orientation of the pilgrims already passed. One evening, Glenn and I decided to join the Pilgrimage and Olivas. They made an exception and accepted us as volunteers! The admin was surprised and said they don’t accept volunteers this late. That is my first miracle for this trip!

At the start of the pilgrimage, they gave us our assignment of malades (endearing French word for a sick person) to take care of each day. Behold on day 1, which happens to be my birthday, I was randomly assigned to Jizelle! This is not a coincidence. It’s my 2nd miracle [link](#).

I thank Glenn for joining me on this trip. I have been praying that he will understand my longing for our Lord -- daily masses, long hours of choir practice, parish council and time with Communications, AugustineTV. I felt my prayers were answered. If there was a volunteer who spent the most time/effort and was eager to be in prayer/worship the whole day, it would have been him.

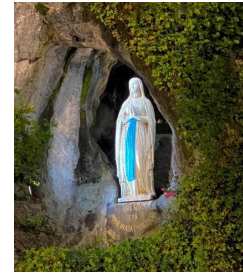
The pilgrimage reminded me of the following:

Love begets love. I let each day unfold to empty myself, pour out all my love especially to the malade, assigned to Glenn and my care. I found instead overflowing love and inspiration back to me from those who are sick and from all the other volunteers.

Joy amidst suffering. Those who are sick at the pilgrimage had joy in their hearts. They measure health by feeling grateful for blessings that I may have discounted. While I am physically



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healthy, my heart and mind may not be well. We all need healing, including those who seemed well.

Love heals. The 300 volunteers, clergy, doctors/medical team, and the malades were full of Christ-like love to share that you will leave this holy place spiritually transformed. When we are sick, we shouldn't tough it alone. Not only is God with us during our sufferings, but we have Him in the hearts of our many brothers and sisters.

St. Augustine itself is a miracle! We don't have to go to Lourdes to witness a miracle. It is right here at SAC every day. Parish leaders of the other churches who are volunteers shared with pride how their parishioners serve their parishes. However, they were in awe and found it remarkable, almost unbelievable, to learn that St. Augustine has such a volume of beautifully executed activities of prayer and worship with our countless novenas, rosaries, processions, Adoration/Holy Hour, celebration of Lent, Easter, and Christmas.

I am grateful to our clergies, parishioners, ministries/volunteers. Our faithful community is a role model. We are instruments of the unique manifestation of Christ's overwhelming love for us. We should not keep to ourselves such witnessing. We should show our love for Christ and our Blessed Mother to the whole world.

Thank you for praying for us during our pilgrimage and allowing us to pray for you, to offer mass, to light you candles, and to bring your petitions to Lourdes.

I am very humbled and feel so undeserving of God's abundant love and blessings. My mission is to praise him by simply striving to be good, loving, and being holy.

Reflections of Glenn Ramos

What was your most memorable experience of the pilgrimage "I was very happy in Lourdes because I was surrounded by 300 people who are true to themselves, and really good and loving people all in one place. I was very happy in Lourdes because I was with my wife 24/7 for 10 days with a common mission. I was also very happy to spend time with Jizelle, Oscar, Janet and "ninang" Fe."



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