

# LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

## INTRODUCTION

**The Diocese of Ferns organizes an annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. An integral part of this pilgrimage are**

**(i) invalids and elderly**

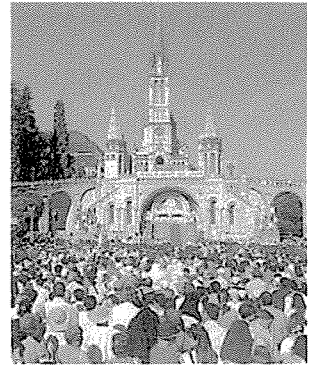
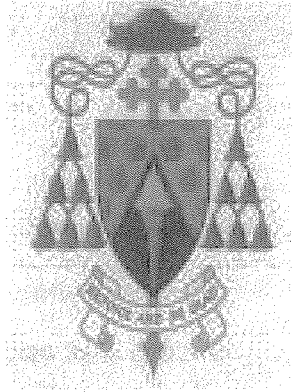
**(ii) students / young people**

**iii) medical staff and many helpers.**

The diocese is aware of its duty of care to all young people / vulnerable adults who travel to Lourdes under its auspices and this includes ensuring that they have a positive and safe experience during their trip. In addition, the diocese has a responsibility to ensure that adults involved in the

pilgrimage are safe around children / young people.

Child Protection Policy and Procedures for the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes are based on "Our Children, Our Church" : Child Protection Policies and Procedures for the Catholic Church in Ireland :



## POLICY STATEMENT

**The Diocese of Ferns values and encourages the participation of children / young people in the annual pilgrimage to Lourdes. Their active involvement in this work can help to enhance their spiritual, social, physical and emotional development.**

During pilgrimage time, the diocese undertakes

to do all in its power to create a safe environment for children / young people and to ensure their protection from neglect, physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

This will be done by:

Ensuring that all pilgrimage helpers are carefully recruited, selected, trained and supported.

Ensuring that there is adequate preparation and training in best practice guidelines.

Appointment of Designated Child Protection Officer for duration of pilgrimage

Making people aware of procedures for responding to any child protection concerns

Having a code of conduct for all helpers

**The one thing you MUST NOT DO is NOTHING**

## WHAT TO DO – WHAT NOT TO DO

### DEALING WITH CONCERNS

#### Source of concern

A child may tell you  
Someone else may tell you

#### You may notice

Physical injury  
Child's behaviour  
Behaviour of staff member

### Check out your concerns

With the child  
With the adult in charge of the group

#### Report

To the designated person

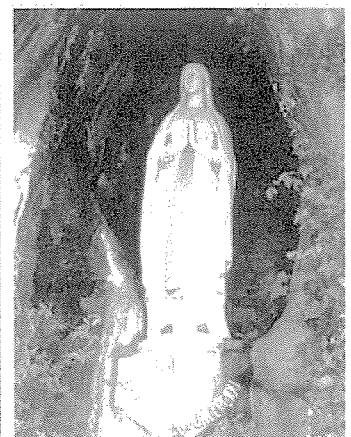
### DEALING WITH DISCLOSURE

**DO** stay calm, listen believe, reassure, re-

cord in writing, report, record your report

**DO NOT** panic, promise to keep secrets, ask leading questions, make the child repeat the story unnecessarily, delay, start to investigate

**The one thing you MUST NOT DO is NOTHING**



## **LOURDES PILGRIMAGE**

### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR PILGRIMAGE WORKERS AND HELPERS**

1. All people should be treated with courtesy, respect and dignity.
2. Ensure that appropriate boundaries are maintained in the relaxed environment of the pilgrimage. Physical contact between young pilgrims and leaders will be of an appropriate nature at all times
3. Do not engage in or tolerate any behaviour – verbal, psychological or physical – that could be construed as bullying.
4. Engage with young people in an open manner and take care not to become over-involved with one child or a group of children
5. Physical punishment, emotional or verbal abuse of children / young people are not permitted under any circumstances.
6. Inappropriate language or sexually suggestive comments or gestures are unacceptable..
7. Being alone with a young person is not appropriate practice and if it is unavoidable, inform another responsible adult.
8. Young people must be supervised at all times and one person needs to be in the position of leader in charge.
9. Students have a clearly designated leader with whom they can discuss concerns if they arise.
10. Youth helpers have been made aware of the tasks and responsibilities to be requested of them during the pilgrimage - appropriate to their age and capacity. They should not be asked to do intimate care tasks for which they have no training.
11. Adequate, gender-appropriate, supervision for boys and girls is essential on all occasions.
12. Under no circumstances give alcohol, tobacco or drugs to young people
13. Youth leaders are requested not to use alcohol or tobacco when supervising or working with young people.

**Discipline requirements and sanctions have been agreed by leaders and young people. These are clearly defined and implemented consistently.**

#### ***Responding to Child Protection Concerns***

All concerns and /or complaints should be brought to the attention of the Pilgrimage Child Protection Officer