

# LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

## INTRODUCTION

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

**(i) invalids and elderly**

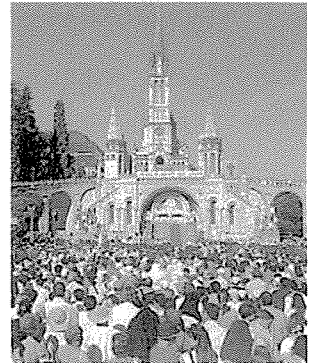
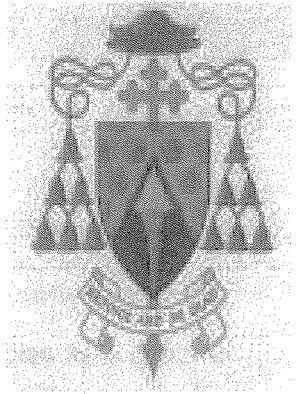
**(ii) students / young people**

**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**

