

June 6, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

A PILGRIM'S DISPATCH: PREPARATION

By Julie Mussché

Maxim 84

*Be not too eager
to go ahead of grace but
quietly await.*

MAXIMS IN HAIKU, FRANCES AGNES BLAKE, CSJ AND ANN MARIE GRADY, CSJ

Reflection

Dear reader,

As this reflection is being written, in less than a week, I will be traveling on pilgrimage to Le Puy-en-Velay, France. The sacred quest offers time and space to rest in, reflect on, and pray in relationship with the remembering of the heritage and charism of the Sisters of St. Joseph. While I will have returned

before you receive this, the entry is the first of what I hope will be many that will be shared with you. Although this narrative precedes the actual physical journey, in fact the pilgrimage has, in many respects, already begun. Just as the pilgrimage will be an integrated experience, so is the preparation.

Mental Preparation: part of the readiness for this pilgrimage has included reading about and reflecting on the formative persons who guided and influenced establishment of the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the context in which this was inspired. Additionally, as usual, there has been checking of the atlas as to the location and general geography, climate, and weather, as well as the history of the places our pilgrimage group will be sojourning. There have been lists made and crossed out for packing and other tasks associated with travel.

Heart Preparation: recognizing that this journey is more than just visiting another place, it is a sacred endeavor that invites a pilgrim's heart of openness and heightened awareness of the Spirit's presence in the experience. It is about encountering each moment in relationship with others. It includes a recognition that there is some rigor involved in not only the travel, but in being someplace different and significant, that there will be homesickness and some discomfort as well as adventure in the unknown. Patience in all things is called for. Lastly, there is overwhelming gratitude to be able to be a part of the holy caravan.

Spirit Preparation: I've asked practically everyone I've encountered over the past month to pray for me and our pilgrimage community. I've prayed in particular for intentionality and presence, to move through and in this passage with mindfulness and a loving gaze in responding to the call of unifying love. While it is tempting to anticipate, the invitation for me is to not get ahead of grace. As I write this, it is Eastertide, a time of new beginnings and getting the Good News out in word and action. So let it be.



A walking path in Le Puy.
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

Pilgrims All Are We

God of our journey, we come as pilgrims.

We want to experience our beginnings and our history.

*May we travel
with hearts open to the newness you offer us,
with eyes open to the beauty around us,
with hands open to one another in community...*

CAROL ALLAN, SSJ, *That All May be One*

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