

June 9, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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A PILGRIM'S DISPATCH: SACRED ENCOUNTERS

By Julie Mussché

Maxim 90

“Have a heart so great ... a heart impelled by the spirit to embrace gently and ardently undertakings of great zeal.”

Reflection

“Allons-y! On to Le Puy.” After a full and beautiful visit with Fr. Medaille and the keystones of the beginnings of the Sisters of St. Joseph, onward our pilgrim community forged, by coach to and by train from Lyon to Le Puy, the place where contemplation birthed the tangible expression of service and love toward God and the dear neighbor. The train skirted the Mediterranean as we moved from the Occitanie region of France to Le Puy-en-Velay in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region. We moved into the heart of the Massif Central, the massive and ancient geological core of France and paralleled the Rhône for a bit. My ears popped as we gradually increased elevation. It was mind-

boggling that Fr. Medaille travelled from Carcassonne to Le Puy by foot.

Le Puy-en-Velay is visually stunning and seems to come suddenly into view. We made our way to our next place of sojourn, the Centre International Saint Joseph, and were welcomed warmly. We settled in and then walked around the city to familiarize ourselves with the environs.

Le Puy is a city of hills dominated by three significant volcanic outcrops upon which there are three places of worship, the chapel of St. Michel de l'Aiguilhe, the Cathedral of Notre Dame of France, and the Shrine of St. Joseph. No doubt about it, God's imprint seems to reverberate all around, which hearkens back to the early days of Christianity in Gaul. Not surprisingly, Le Puy is one of the starting points for the Camino de Santiago de Compostela, and all over the town there are symbols and signs to help guide the many pilgrims making their way along the path toward Spain. One thing that astounded me was the sense of kinship with the family of pilgrims passing through on their way toward Spain.

Our day ended with a sharing of the heart and a fortifying meal, followed by much needed rest. It is a good thing because by this point, we were starting to log many miles of walking and climbing. What would the next day hold? We shall see.



A path in Le Puy that leads travelers along the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

Photo by Julie Mussch é

For Pondering

A Pilgrim's Path

*Time and space converge,
the footprints of many merge
along a well walked road
in search of the Sacred;*

*How will each encounter
the Holy One?
Is God here? Is God there?
Perhaps God is everywhere;*

*The ordinary becomes extraordinary-
small things open up
to unexpected graces,
pushing body and soul to new places;*

*How will each encounter
the Holy One?
Is God here? Is God there?
Perhaps God is everywhere;*

*A communion of saints
made whole in the being
with each other, and
united in the Divine;*

*How will each encounter
the Holy One?
Is God here? Is God there?
Perhaps God is everywhere;*

*Hospitality reigns
and generosity overflows
from all encountered,
blessed unity;*

*How will each encounter
the Holy One?
Is God here? Is God there?
Perhaps God is everywhere;*

*With gratitude, I kneel
awestruck and compelled
to continue along
a pilgrim's path;*

*How will each encounter
the Holy One?
Is God here? Is God there?
Perhaps God is everywhere.*

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