

June 10, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

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A PILGRIM'S DISPATCH: SACRED ENCOUNTERS ONGOING

By Julie Mussché

An Excerpt from the Gospel of John

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one — I in them and you in me — so that they may be brought to complete unity."

JOHN 17: 20-23

Reflection

Our pilgrim's journey took place toward the end of Eastertide, and we were in Le Puy on Ascension Thursday. We attended Mass, a beautiful service holding the universal connections of liturgy and worship on a special day.

The focus on this day was the first six women and the formation directress who became the Daughters of Joseph. Part of the day included exploring the city and streets where these formidable but humble women ministered. We were also introduced to lace-making, a significant art and trade of the city. It is difficult to conceptualize the time in which the women served and the hardships and needs they faced. France in the 17th century was volatile and filled with military and religious conflict. There were extremes in wealth and poverty with a strong ruling class that was rigid and oppressive. Sanitation was limited, and disease was rampant. At the same time, it was one of the most intellectually and artistically creative periods in European history. These women, enacting the spiritual and corporal works of mercy, caring for the dear neighbor without distinction with steadfast zeal, must have been incredibly selfless and brave.

That evening, our tired community of pilgrims reflected on the women. We also spent some time reflecting on self-emptying through an examen attributed to Joan L. Roccasalvo, CSJ, and then explored the State of the Heart.

How does one make room for God as well as the dear neighbor? Impediments are varied and unique to each of us. Is it about perfection or trying the best we can to move toward God's desire for us as ambassadors of his in the world? "Live out your life with one desire only: to be always what God wants you to be, in nature, grace and glory, for time and eternity." (Jean-Pierre Medaille, SJ, *Maxim 73*)



View of Le Puy from the Cathedral of Notre Dame du Puy.
Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- What are some of the ways you make room for God and the dear neighbor?
- How can God help you with opening up your heart and spirit even wider?

For Prayer

*Expansive Spirit,
thank you for the gift of generosity and selflessness.
Please grow my and heart and spirit
to make more room for you and all who I encounter.*

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