

July 25, 2023



Daily Reflections

JOURNEYING THROUGH CHALLENGING TIMES

Image by Christine Sponchia from Pixabay

A PILGRIM'S DISPATCH: RETURN AGAIN

By Julie Mussché

Maxim 77

"Fulfill all the duties of the great and true love of God, and you will fulfill the rest."

FR. JEAN-PIERRE MEDAILLE, S.J.

Reflection

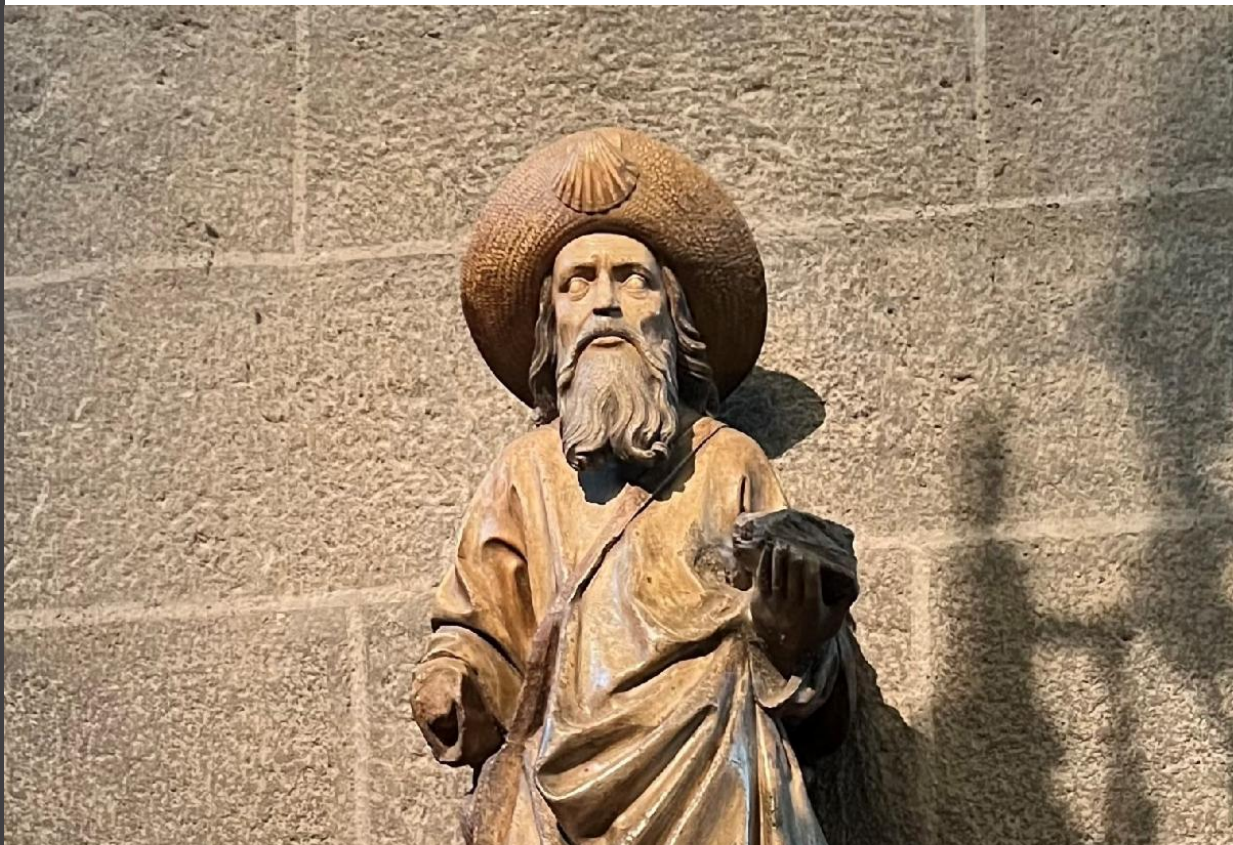
What a perfect day to return to our pilgrimage in Le Puy: today is the feast of St. James, and how fitting to visit -- in this reflection -- one of the starting points of the Camino de Santiago de Compostela. For day six of our pilgrimage, our traveling community traversed the city through cobblestone byways. The spiritual focus of the day was on humility and the six founders. Going through my journal notes, I ran across a question, "What does it mean to be humble?" The response: dynamic generosity, the call to self-empty, to give of self in

response to need and without distinction.

The day was jam-packed and filled with the prospect of visiting a sacred site of the Sisters of St. Joseph founding, the Le Puy kitchen. When our tribe arrived and made our way into the kitchen, a consistent exclamation, “I can’t believe I’m actually here,” arose in chorus. As people who had ministered alongside the sisters at St. Joseph Center, some for decades, we had seen photos of the blessed kitchen many times. It was a joy and amazing to be present to the place where it all began.

One could almost hear the voices from the past sharing with each other about their day ministering, or maybe identifying the needs of the neighborhood and planning for the upcoming day. Sprinkled among the conversation, perchance a bit of laughter or tears mingled with the evening prayer. Perhaps they whispered, “Welcome, there’s more to do.”

Beyond the day’s experience, and following a fortifying meal, a group of us decided to pilgrim to the Notre Dame du Puy Cathedral. It is an ancient pilgrimage site and the church where folks receive a blessing before beginning the Camino. A beautiful and very large statue of Our Lady holding the baby Jesus (Note-Dame de France) sits atop the highest of the volcanic peaks. We climbed to the top, taking our time to visit with Mary and enjoy the gorgeous vistas the elevation provided. Some folks climbed up the statue, a large edifice made from cannons captured during the Crimean War. While tired, we were elated. What an eventful day.





Statue of St. James
Photo by Julie Mussch é



The Le Puy Kitchen
Photo by Julie Mussch é

For Pondering

Think back to and reflect on a time where, while exhausted, you were lifted by joy. What was the circumstance? What images and memories come to mind? What are you thankful for?

For Prayer

Thank you, God of surprises, for the joys of life!

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