

LITURGY BYTES

What's A Pilgrimage?



According to “Wikipedia,” a pilgrimage is a journey, often into an unknown or foreign place, where a person goes in search of new or expanded meaning about one’s self, others, nature, or a higher good through the experience. It can lead to a personal transformation.

A friend once told me that his favorite pilgrimage is the one he makes each time he attends Mass. This enlightenment was something I never thought of in terms of a pilgrimage. However, if we look at Mass as a journey, surrounded by our heavenly Father, the saints and angels, we are transformed by the Paschal mystery encountering Jesus fully alive in the Eucharist. It definitely seems like my friend makes a good point!

So, as the lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer are upon us, what will be your pilgrimage this year? Perhaps it is to the beach, or to the mountains, or to foreign lands, or even a staycation at home. This time affords us many opportunities to enjoy those we love, catch up with those we do not see often, or kick back to a different lifestyle. Perhaps this summer we will make celebrating the Eucharist a major part of our weekly schedule and a priority. While schedules are a bit different, it is a good time to have our family focus on this gift awaiting us each Saturday night or Sunday morning. Giving our full attention, not making it a chore but a true family affair, can easily be the norm come the fall and the start-up of our busy schedules.

The greatest gift we can give our children and grandchildren or share in ourselves is receiving Jesus in the Eucharist. Our Lord is waiting and longs to be with us.

Why not make that pilgrimage to Mass something special each and every week!

Have a joyful, healthy, and blessed week! ~*Michele Hall*