

Preparing Your Spirit for the Pilgrimage

A Pilgrimage is a journey with a purpose to a holy place. The days far from home and routine are not a vacation. On a pilgrimage, as all of us soon learn, there are sacrifices -- which everyone makes. These unusual practices help us understand that God is in the mix of our life.

During the pilgrimage we pray together, spend time in quiet prayer with the Blessed Sacrament, attend Mass each day and are enveloped in an ambience of grace.

We come to know perhaps for the first time of the great love God has for all, especially the frail, Mary's own words come to life, "the Almighty has done great things for me, lifting up the lowly and leveling the mighty" (Luke 1:46)

The pilgrimage helps us learn to depend on one another. The virtue of humility is obvious and an available lesson, look around as you make your way to and from the Domain, consider the risk, the expenditure of time and material and all for one idea, all people depend on the Almighty.

Mary asked Bernadette three things, tell those who come to this grotto to walk in processions, celebrate the sacrament of penance and experience the water from this spring.

Processions

The Processions remind everyone that the Lord walks with us in our infirmities and accompanies us in our blessings.

Penance

The Sacrament of Penance/Confession enables us to meet Christ who restores health to our souls.

The Water

The Lourdes water in which one can bathe, wash or drink reminds us that God gives life to all and refreshment to the tired.

Lourdes is an extraordinary experience. Mary was asked by Gabriel to accept that she was chosen by God for a mission, to bring Christ to the World. Mary responded, "let it be done as you say".

You've been invited to Lourdes, so that you too will know how close God is to the things you carry. Echo Mary's response, "let it be..." and you will know the wonder of these holy days.