

Reflection on Pilgrimage — Fr. James Heyd



www.footprintsdocumentary.com

The phenomena of pilgrimage is an essential part of the Christian journey. We go from the beginning of our life until the end on a path called by our Savior to live a life loving God and loving our neighbor. We face perils along the way, moments of temptation and sin and evils that abound. But we continue to walk forward with others. The Holy Family escaped the clutches of Herod and his desire to kill the Christ-child leaving their homeland, eventually to return when it was safe. Pilgrims have flocked to the Holy Land for years to visit the sacred places of salvation history.

At World Youth Day in Santiago de Compostela in 1988, St. John Paul II called not only youth but the church back to its roots, to reconsider the role of pilgrimage in our heritage. Pope Francis now calls us to a period of ongoing discernment on our pilgrim way and the need to accompany each other.

In light of this history and these developments, we are blessed to share with our pilgrims on the March for Life-Chicago the new documentary entitled *Footprints-The Way of St. James* produced by Fr. Sergio Fata of the Diocese of Phoenix. Twelve men take up the challenge to travel from the United States to Spain to go on pilgrimage. Accompanying each other, discerning their faith along the way, these twelve are better people upon finishing the pilgrimage in Compostela.

It is encouraged that our pilgrims on our March for Life watch this film and meditate how they are pilgrims as well and how their journey and presence in Chicago can be spiritual experiences that deepen faith and also give witness to a desire by many to create a new culture of life.

May the Lord bless our pilgrims and the Virgin of Guadalupe intercede for them.

Fr. James Heyd