



What is different When Pilgrims Walk Together
An Experiment for Pilgrimage-in-Place, Pentecost, 2023

So, the time has come to open the individually planned Pilgrimage-in-Place to include a communal experience. Will you innovate with us by creating an experience with your family, friends, faith community, or even strangers? We will, of course, welcome each and every pilgrim and hope they use the various resources available. Here are some suggestions to your questions: Where to begin? What should I do? What else should be considered?

First, relax; then pray and sense the possibilities before you. You already know the basic ingredients for any pilgrimage:

Set an intention.

Name a destination/holy place.

Trust the way will be open, even if unexpectedly so.

Keep moving forward; keep praying the intention/s.

As the leader of a group experience begin with these elements; then add specifics.

Know your route – perhaps a trial walk, noting difficulties, time and energy expended.

Consider safety issues – remember, some pilgrims may be more or less able bodied than you.

Anticipate physical needs: identify bathrooms, shade trees and good rest stops along the route.

Imagine how you will handle a sprained ankle, a cut, or someone who can't continue.

Emphasize the basics: intention/s, a holy destination, trust, and prayer create a pilgrimage

Build community with periods of silence and prompts for sharing; singing and praying together; sharing personal stories and deeper reflections. Use these techniques as encouragement for the journey. When engaged in a good conversation or a deep prayer folks don't notice sore feet or aching legs. Keep praying/moving so each and every pilgrim completes their pilgrimage.

Then, let us know how it went! Send an email to george.huggins@nmpilgrimage.org