

December 10, 2014

Dear friend,

In August of this year, 45 young people trailed up to New Franken, Wisconsin – a little town 16 miles North East of Green Bay, and 995 miles from our New York office. The young people were university students who gathered in the middle of the summer for three days to walk as pilgrims through farm fields and pastures. The destination was the Shrine of our Lady of Good help, located in the place where in 1859 our Lady appeared to Adele Brise - the first and only apparition formally approved by the Catholic Church in the United States. The purpose: to re-discover that we are structurally desirous of infinite and at the same time incapable of generating it by our own strength.

For the untrained eye, a pilgrimage might feel as something of the past that no longer fits with our modern life. One could think of it as unnecessary wandering - one could arrive by car or train - and walking 35 miles appear to be without purpose since the effort would not put much of a dent to someone looking forth to losing weight or getting in shape.

However, as the year comes to a close, the memory of those young people journeying towards the mother of Jesus reminds me of the ultimate purpose of our daily living. After all, we are all pilgrims. We journey to our destiny. Like pilgrims, some days are filled with weariness and difficulty; other days the beauty of the road ahead or the excitement for the stolen glimpse of the destination moves us. Like pilgrims, we are aware that our journey and destination is sustained by an Other who took the initiative to become one like us. Like pilgrims, we are in need of encouragement, food, prayers, and a place to rest. Like pilgrims, we live of the charity and goodness of people like you who year after year freely choose to sustain and support us in our journey towards Jesus who awaits.

I am thankful for your support this past year and once again I ask you to pray for us, to walk with us, to support us.

Gratefully, and with my best wishes for a wonderful Advent season,



Fr. José Medina  
Communion & Liberation