

JULY 7, 2019



# El Camino de Santiago

## A Walking Pilgrimage

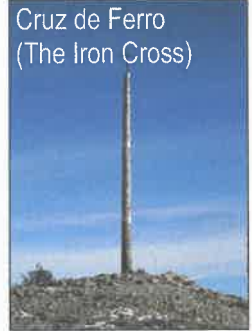
### April 20-29, 2020

*It's not the destination, it's the journey.*



This popular saying could refer to life in general, but is even more true when it comes to walking **El Camino de Santiago/ The Way of St. James**. Fr. Grady will lead a small group to Spain to walk this medieval pilgrimage route April 20- 29, 2020. Santiago de Compostela is the 3rd most visited Christian pilgrimage after the Holy Land and Rome. Pilgrims (peregrinos) have been making the journey since the 9th century from their homes all the way to Santiago, where the remains of St. James the Apostle are buried in the great Gothic Cathedral.

The trip will begin in MADRID with a walking tour of the city and overnight. The next day is a walking warm-up with a stop at the IRON CROSS in FONCEBADON where pilgrims leave a stone that represents the sin or burden they wish to leave behind. We will stop in O'CEBREIRO, a mountain village at 1300 meters and site of an Eucharistic Miracle. Overnight in SARRIA where the walking journey *really* begins. You will obtain your "Credential" a sort of "Camino Passport" that you will need to have stamped along The Way at least twice each day to prove your journey. Each day we will follow the shell path markers along the Camino Frances. We will start early each morning with breakfast and get on the Camino to walk at our own pace. We will have Mass each day as well as other prayers/devotionals to strengthen us all the way to Santiago.



Cruz de Ferro  
(The Iron Cross)



Galicia, Spain

Why do people walk the Camino? The reasons are as varied as people are, but most pilgrims have some spiritual reason to embark on this one-of-a-kind pilgrimage. Some do it to get away from the noise of life and be silent in the breathtakingly lush and mountainous Galician region of Spain. Some pilgrims walk to discern God's will for them in a particular area in their life. Others do it as a penance for their sins or as an offering/sacrifice for a special prayer intention. The reasons to walk the Camino are endless, and each person's Camino experience is unique. This is not only a spiritual journey, but a physical

and emotional one as well. You will put your body to the test each day walking many miles with aching feet and tired muscles, yet feeling a surge in spirit and stamina as you lean on the Lord for perseverance. At the end of each day, we will recharge our bodies and enjoy wine and dinner with the group. We will share the joys and challenges we encountered that day. It will be an experience that leaves a long-lasting impression. You will gain better knowledge of yourself, meet fellow pilgrims from all over the world, make some lasting holy friendships, and return (at least a little bit), changed from the experience.



Traditional Houses, O Cebreiro Village



Don't think you can physically do such a pilgrimage? YES, YOU CAN! We will have check points along the way each day with a bus available to transport any pilgrim who cannot make the full walk to the hotel that evening. Walk what you are able, and don't worry! This pilgrimage will give you that sense of security knowing that accommodations, most meals, luggage handling, transfers, and guidance is handled for you! *All you have to do is walk and enjoy!*

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## WE WILL HOST AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON TUESDAY, JULY 9TH AT 7PM IN THE ST. JOSEPH ROOM.

We will have a visual presentation as well as personal testimonies from a few parishioners who have recently walked from Sarria to Santiago. You will have your questions answered and given detailed information about what to expect and how to prepare. Even if you just want to hear what walking the Camino is all about and see some incredible pictures, we invite you to attend the meeting. Registration has officially begun! Pick up a flyer in the Narthex for detailed information and pricing. Call Marcie (815)459-3033 with further questions and— "*Buen Camino!*"

\*There is an optional add-on extension to this pilgrimage to Fatima, Portugal April 29- May 2 for only \$433 additional.



Santiago de Compostela Cathedral