

JPIC: Love the Lord, Love His Kingdom, Love the Earth

May 1, 2022

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

When we walk we pray, putting our prayers into the earth. Let us honor God's earth together and put our prayers into the earth from Florence to Rome. What a wonderful Franciscan journey this will be. We have some historical evidence that Our Beloved St. Francis walked this way when he traveled to Rome to get approval for his Rule. We may even be walking in his footsteps, albeit virtually.

How wonderful it will be to have a member of each of the twenty-four fraternities in the St. Francis Region joining as a team and walking, running, cycling, or skipping the 312 miles on this ancient Roman road, walking where pilgrims have traveled since medieval times.

Perhaps in the future we can do this in person. But, as for now, let us practice and do it virtually. Our dear sisters, Barbara Courtois and Betsy McGowan of the St Francis of Assisi Fraternity, tackled the 480-mile Camino de Santiago virtual challenge. It was so much fun they took on the 2280-mile Route 66 challenge. Again, so much fun they want to share the next challenge, the St. Francis Way Virtual Challenge, with all of their Franciscan sisters and brothers!

So let us join them! Perhaps your fraternity can support one or two members for the entrance fee. Perhaps your friends will support you. Your money will be used to plant trees along the way and/or pull plastic bottles from the ocean, bottles that endanger the lives of marine animals. Barbara and Betsy will be our pilgrimage coaches. They will host a ZOOM session to teach us how to sign up. Please join us so we can begin on.....

JUNE 1, 2022!

Please email Barbara Courtois beezeez63@gmail.com and sign up. Please put Virtual Walk in the subject line when you write to Barbara. I so look forward to making this pilgrimage with you, dear sisters and brothers.

**Peace and All Good,
Patricia Grace, OFS
JPIC Animator
St. Francis Region**

