

Via Cathedral Pilgrim's Blessing

Blessed are you, pilgrim, if you find that the walking has opened your eyes to the unseen.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, if what concerns you most is not arriving, but arriving with the others.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, when you contemplate the sights of the city and find them full of names and of new dawns.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, because you have discovered that the true pilgrimage begins at its end.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, if your backpack empties of things as your heart doesn't know where to fit so many emotions.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, if you discover that a step backwards to help another is more valuable than one hundred forward without awareness of those at your sides.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, when you have no words to give thanks for all the wonders in every nook of your walk.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, if you search the truth and make of your pilgrimage a life and of your life a pilgrimage, after Him who is the Way, the Life, and the Truth.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, if in the walking you meet yourself and make yourself a gift of time without hurry so that you may not neglect the image of your heart.

Blessed are you, pilgrim, if you find that the walking is rich with silence, and the silence is rich with prayers, and the prayers are encounters with the God that awaits you.

*All-powerful God, you always show mercy toward those whom you love,
and you are never far away for those who seek you.
Remain with your servants as they go forward from this pilgrimage
and guide their way in accord with your will.
Shelter them with your protection by day, give them the light of your grace
by night, and, as their companion on their journey,
bring them to their destination in safety.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

~Adapted from *St. Anthony Messenger*