

Traveling the Road in Company

(p. 22 of the Pilgrim's Guide)

I have read the Pilgrim's Guide multiple times, but the subject title of this article did not catch my eyes until the National Encounter in Seattle, WA, year 2018. A few of us, Secretariat members attended. The experience was eye-opening, inspirational, and most of all, it solidified and made steadfast our bond of friendship among us and the rest of the world.

Walking into the Seattle University campus, registering, greeting cursillistas from here and abroad, smiling, pulling luggage to the dorm were easy, joyful tasks that set the tone for the rest of the weekend. Friendship was in the air. Happiness was felt in the deepest core of my being because I was deeply connected with so many people, and they connected with me. It was a different world. There was so much kindness, humility and care offered among strangers. Many tongues were spoken but we understood each other. The presence of the Holy Spirit was awe-inspiring. Not a single complaint about anything was expressed. How I wish more of us were there. The Holy Mass was presided by a multitude of deacons, priests, bishops, cardinals, and celebrated in multiple languages. Jesus was in the midst. He was in the company of us and we were in the company of Him. No one was left alone. What a joy to have!

Friends are peculiar sometimes. They can be strange, awkward, and atypical. On the flipside, they can be funny, helpful, caring and loving. True friends are not judging regardless of sides. Although all of us can be weird at times, but here, our differences did not matter at that moment.

In a perfect world, this acceptance of each other is ideal, but we don't live in perfection. It made me question reality for a second. Did this harmony actually exist at all or was it an illusion? The medical professionals regard this type of mood swings between extreme happiness and doubt as a precursor to a mental illness. Symptoms may fit Bi-Polar, multiple personalities or what not. So, I ask. Is this friendship crazy? Is Jesus? Is His friendship with the Twelve? Are they? Am I? Yes, of course, we are! We are all crazy in love with Jesus and His teachings. Whoever calls you crazy, just smile and walk away or better yet invite them for a cup of coffee, and listen to what they say, then reach out a hand and be there for them. Be a friend. Invite them to be crazy with you.

What is most comforting is having a friend walking side-by-side, arm-to-arm, shoulder-to-shoulder, and looking ahead alongside each other with no reservations whether they reach their destination or not as long as they are traveling in company, not alone. The joy of friendship is in the company of others. Living the life alone can be an uphill climb, no joy at all. But, with Jesus Christ, no one is left alone.

Count me in. I will be your company.

De Colores.

Sister Celsa