

My Pilgrimage Experience

By Mario and Maria Luciani

This is our third trip that we have taken with Father Owen and the Saint Rose of Lima parishioners. We cannot choose which trip is the best, in their own way they all were. The spiritual affect brought us closer to God. We felt God in Lourdes, praying at the grotto. We were overwhelmed in Rome in St. Peter, being so close to the Pope. Portugal was just as good, starting at Santiago de Compostela, what a privilege of sitting on the altar. We watched the famous Botafumeiro swing from the ceiling dispersing incense, what a beautiful tradition. Fatima, we felt such peace there, we were part of a candlelit procession and everyone was singing Ave Maria. Watching so many pilgrims, young and old, crawling on their knees to honor Our Mother Mary was extremely emotional. Their faith was extremely touching to witness.

It was such an honor to finish the pilgrimage by renewing our 50th wedding vows in the church of St. Anthony, my patron saint. How moving to be standing in the same location where St. Anthony was born and lived. It is difficult to put into words how lifechanging these trips have been. We would like to thank Father Owen for being our spiritual leader and Stephanie Politi for organizing these trips.