

My dear fellow Pilgrims,

Like the Gave de Pau, you my fellow pilgrims are like a beautiful river - overflowing with energy! So far it has been an inspiring 4 days with you.

It has been said that in Lourdes, *Heaven touches the earth* - we learn that a lot as we begin to experience what Our Lady means to the pilgrims of this place. First of all, I am amazed by the culture that has been built around this place. A culture of faith, prayer, and strong sense of God, which brings joy to all who are here.

We have celebrated Mass at the Chapel of St Patrick, and have followed the footsteps of St Bernadette.

Today, in our free time, I hope that you have taken our Lady's invitation: "Go and drink at the spring..." and have lighted a candle for the special petition prayer to her; light prolongs our prayers... I also hope that, here is where we would receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession).

Your Spiritual Guide during the Pilgrimage,
Fr. JC Merino



I shall spend every moment loving. One who loves does not notice her trials; or perhaps more accurately, she is able to love them. I shall do everything for Heaven, my true home. There I shall find my Mother in all the splendor of her glory. I shall delight with her in the joy of Jesus himself in perfect safety.

~ St. Bernadette ~



