

Day by Day - Step by Step Accompanying the Pilgrimage

As you pray for the success and safety of the Pilgrimage of Hope, here are steps you can take at home to join in spirit with the walkers.

Day 1: Think about your ancestors who first came to these shores. You may not know anything about them, but consider the fears and hopes that brought them to uproot their lives to come here. Thank them for their sacrifice.

Day 2: Most Californians are immigrants. Our homes and communities rest on land once inhabited by Native Californians. Who were the Native Peoples of your area? For most of the San Joaquin Valley, the Yokuts were the predominant tribe. To see who were the indigenous peoples of your area see [https://ncidc.org/CA Tribal Territories and Language Maps](https://ncidc.org/CA_Tribal_Territories_and_Language_Maps).

Day 3: The participants on the Pilgrimage of Hope are participating in an ancient Christian practice. Beginning in the fourth century Christians began traveling, often on foot, to the Holy Land. Have you ever made a pilgrimage? One of the most famous Pilgrimages is the Camino de Santiago in Spain. Go online and read about the Camino. Recite this 12th Century prayer from the first guidebook for the Camino on behalf of our pilgrims today.

*God, You called your servant Abraham from Ur in Chaldea,
watching over him in all his wanderings,
and guided the Hebrew people as they crossed the desert.
Guard these your children who, for the love of your Name.
[make this journey to Sacramento.]
Be their companion on the way,
their guide at the crossroads,
their strength in weariness,
their defense in dangers,
their shelter on the path,
their shade in the heat,
their light in the darkness,
their comfort in discouragement,
and the firmness of their intentions;
that through your guidance,
they may arrive safely at the end of their journey and,
enriched with grace and virtue,
may return to their homes
filled with salutary and lasting joy.
Amen.*

Day 4: Who are the immigrants in your community? You can read here about recent patterns of immigration in California: <https://www.ppic.org/publication/immigrants-in-california/> Who could you contact to learn about immigrants in your community? Your local reference librarian can help.

Day 5: The Pilgrimage of Hope participants are walking about 10 to 15 miles a day - sometimes more. What's the furthest you've ever walked? For many people in the world walking is their only means of transportation for work, water, fuel, education, health care. How would your life be different, if you had to walk everywhere?

Day 6: Much of the public conversation about immigration has been focused on the U.S./Mexico border and the immigrants from Central America seeking admission to this country. To learn about what's driving people to leave their homes and head north watch this webinar sponsored by the EDSJ Immigration Task Force: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAJZiw1OpUAMshz5jbdxa2A> **[Terrance, can we create a shorter URL to access this video?]**

Day 7: The Pilgrimage relies on the generosity of many people: the volunteers who are walking, the host congregations who receive, house and feed them, and donors who contribute to cover the costs of the journey. Consider making a donation in support of the Pilgrimage of Hope. Visit www.thepilgrimageofhope.org for instructions on how to give. Thanks for considering it!

Day 8: The Episcopal Church has a long history of assisting immigrants and refugees going back over a century. One expression of that longstanding commitment is Episcopal Migration Ministries. Visit their website to learn more about their inspiring work: <https://episcopalmigrationministries.org>.

Day 9: Forward Movement has created a very nice resource, *No Longer Strangers*, for congregational study on the immigration issue in collaboration with Episcopal Migration Ministries and the Office of Governmental Affairs of the Episcopal Church. Look it over at <http://www.venadelante.org/NoStrangers/>. Do you think your congregation would be interested in doing such a study together?

Day 10: Do you know any recent immigrants to your community? Ask them, if they are willing, to share their story of how they came to this country? What struggles they've encountered? How the community might be more welcoming?

Day 11: In October, 2017, the Episcopal Diocese of San Joaquin unanimously adopted a resolution creating an Immigration Task Force. To learn more about the Task Force

and its work, visit www.sjraise.org. There are also lots of great resources for congregations to use.

Day 12: The Episcopal Church is actively engaged in advocacy on behalf of refugees and immigrants in Washington, D.C., through the Office of Governmental Affairs of the Episcopal Church. You can help their efforts by joining the Episcopal Public Policy Network. Learn how at <https://advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/immigration?0>. This site has excellent resources on current issues impacting immigrants.

Day 13: Are you active on Facebook? Visit the Facebook page of the EDSJ Task Force to learn more about its work and see a few photos/videos of the Pilgrimage. Our FB page is EDSJ: A Safe Place for All God's People. And be sure to like our page and share it with friends and family.

Day 14: Faith in the Valley is the primary partner in our Diocese on issues related to immigrants, especially the struggles of undocumented Californians. Learn more about the work of our valued partner at <https://faithinthevalley.org/>.

Day 15: One of the biggest challenges facing undocumented Californians is dealing with the fees for legal representation. Unlike criminal prosecution where representation is provided, undocumented persons are on their own - even if they are children. As a result, our Diocese has partnered with Faith in the Valley to create a Legal Defense Fund to enable them to have representation. Please consider supporting this important ministry. To donate go to **XXxX**

Day 16: Today, the Pilgrims arrive in Sacramento. Tomorrow, they will join with hundreds of other concerned Californians to advocate with and for immigrants in our communities. To learn more about that event and the issues they are concerned about visit <https://www.caimmigrant.org/events/immigrantday/>

Day 17: The Pilgrimage of Hope concludes today after the events in Sacramento. Thank you so much for joining in this journey, for being a partner in spirit over the many miles between Fresno and Sacramento. Please continue to stay in touch with the work of the Immigration Task Force via our Facebook page and website. Blessings on your journey!