



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

PILGRIM'S DISPATCH: INTERSECTIONS

By Julie Mussché

An Excerpt from "In The Hands of God"

*"Yours, you made me,
Yours, you saved me,
Yours, you endured me,
Yours, you called me,
Yours, you awaited me,
Yours, I did not stray.
What do You want of me?"*

ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Reflection

The Douro River includes miles of wild and untouched riparian landscape. Also dotting the river are quaint villages and properties devoted to the bounty of olives, almonds and wine grapes. One of the oldest wine-producing regions of the world, it is known for Port wine and wine in general. While moving

eastward, and then westward, through the river valley, we experienced one of the rainiest Octobers on record, and consequently the hills shone brightly green, contrasting with the emerging fall foliage in the vineyards. An amazingly beautiful part of the globe, the Douro Valley also provides an alternative way to stop along points on the Camino de Santiago de Compostela.

One such interlude occurred a week into the river journey with a visit to Salamanca, Spain. Now, in addition to its significance as a pilgrimage site, the ancient city is also home to one of the world's oldest universities, and was a place where the lives of St. Teresa of Avila and St. John of the Cross intersected. Pretty amazing stuff.

The city is part of the Via de la Plata, the “silver way” along the Camino, and is known for the beauty of its square (the Plaza Mayor) and buildings, which are constructed with a local sandstone that gives it a particular color and radiance. Throughout the town there are signs of its significance as a pilgrimage location, with shells and images of St. James etched into buildings. The energy of innumerable pilgrims vibrates through the ancient pathways, echoing an invitation to come walk along with St. James.

But wait, there's more! But not until tomorrow.



For Pondering

- In your spiritual wanderings, where have you encountered God?
 - What has surprised you? What will you take with you as a souvenir?
-

For Prayer

*“Silent or speaking,
Fruitbearing or barren,
My wounds shown by the Law,
Rejoicing in the tender Gospel;
Sorrowing or exulting,
You alone live in me:
What do You want of me?
Yours I am, for You I was born:
What do You want of me?”*

ST. TERESA OF AVILA, EXCERPT FROM "IN THE HANDS OF GOD"

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