

December 4, 2025



A PILGRIM'S PATH

By Julie Mussché

A Quote

"Pilgrims are persons in motion -- passing through territories not their own -- seeking something we might call completion, or perhaps the word clarity will do as well, a goal to which only the spirit's compass points the way."

PHIL COUSINEAU, *THE ART OF PILGRIMAGE*

Reflection

Last month opened with remembering the saints and souls who have passed on. This November was particularly poignant for me, with losses compounding over the past several years and having experienced a significant one more recently. On All Saints Day, some of my friends and I made the rounds to a number of cemeteries to visit with loved ones. For me, sweet memories surfaced of events that occurred just last year. One such time was last year's

World Series when my good friend and I went on a quest to find the right celebratory t-shirt. Of blessed memory.

As we move ever closer toward the holidays, it's natural to remember those who are no longer with us. Remembering is a particular pilgrim's path, a sacred walk that at times may draw us toward the gloaming. Sometime back, while preparing a presentation on grief, I wrestled with finding a metaphor that captured the experience of processing and wandering in a period of loss. The image that eventually materialized was one of moving from day into night. The word that ended up bouncing around my thoughts was gloaming. An ancient term, gloaming refers to the time of dusk as the sun has just disappeared behind the horizon. While there's still a glimpse of light, darkness is descending. This poetic reflection and prayer appreciate this special journey of remembering and mourning.

*A walk in the gloaming is an audacious thing,
when the path is obstructed by shadows
of sadness and uncertainty;*

*The call to journey into the unknown is clarion,
a pilgrim's path to travail;
the Spirit beckons onward toward the light of Grace;*

*The road may be full of twists and turns,
with hills and valleys that seem to go
in unknown directions;*

*Yet, fortitude and faith will energize the passage
as well as sojourning with others along the way
to share the sacred stories of remembering;*

*Where is God in the darkness?
There are times when it's hard to see;
O Dayspring, please light the way! Amen*



Los Angeles National Cemetery

Photo by Julie Mussché

For Pondering

- How have you recently journeyed into experiencing or remembering a loss?
- Where do you find the balance of moving toward a joyful time while holding sadness?

For Prayer

O Dayspring, please light the way!

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