

We Make the Road by Walking
Week 1 (the First week of Advent 2018)

“This is why we walk this road: to behold the wonder and savor...aliveness. To remind ourselves who we are, where we are, what’s going on here, and how beautiful, precious, holy and meaningful it all is. It’s why we pause along the journey for a simple, meal, with hearts full of thankfulness, rejoicing to be a part of this beautiful and good creation. This is what it means to be alive. Amen.”

--Brian McLaren, We Make the Road by Walking, Chapter 1.

If you have not yet had the chance to pick up a copy of Brian McLaren’s book *We Make the Road by Walking: A Year Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation and Activation* then please stop by the Diocesan Office and pick up a copy. We have several left. You can also order the book online or pick up a copy at your favorite bookstore. Also, you can pick up this book anytime and join in with us. Just like a real pilgrimage not everyone will keep the same pace, not everyone will start at the same place and we will all have different experiences along the way.

Just as a reminder, this book is made up of 52 chapters (one for every week of the year). We are encouraging people to use this book as they either prepare to walk our Appalachian Camino with us next June as a pilgrim, or as they prepare to walk with us in spirit by holding the pilgrims in their prayers. However you may choose to engage this pilgrimage and the preparation for it, we are glad that you are on the road with us.

So, this week, the first week of Advent, I hope that you will read the preface, the introduction and the first chapter, “Awe and Wonder”. Each chapter begins with some suggested scripture readings. Take time to reflect on these readings before you dive into the chapter.

If you are able, I would encourage you to find a friend or two to read this book with, with your family or your children, or maybe a small group of folks at your church. If possible, get together with these friends, discuss what you’ve read, pray together and support each other in the walk of faith. In addition, tune into the diocesan emails and Facebook page; We’ll be posting occasional updates, reflections, study questions and encouragements.

Buen Camino!

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