



Walking the Way

Stewardship Narrative Series

Welcome to the TENS 2014 Walking the Way Stewardship Narrative Series, designed to complement and support your congregation's annual giving campaign. This year, eight contributing writers will serve as your companions and guides, exploring principles and practices that help your congregation to embrace the Way of Jesus in regard to giving and generosity.

Early Christians were known as the People of The Way. They were recognized for their love of their neighbor, fellowship in the breaking of bread, and their commitment to follow the life and practice of Jesus. The Apostle Paul confessed to worship God according to The Way (Acts 24:14). Jesus shows us that the way to life abundant is through the practices of prayer, forgiveness, giving, and unconditional positive regard and respect to all, especially to those who live on the margins of society. Jesus shows us The Way into the heart of God.

A resurgence in taking pilgrimage has emerged over the last decade—a spiritual undertaking to gain insight, clarity and purpose of what it means to be a *People of the Way*. Whether it is the Camino de Santiago Competella in France and Spain, the Via Francigena in Italy, or following the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land, the purpose of pilgrimage is to journey to the unfamiliar to find new life in Christ. On pilgrimage, you only carry what you need; most guides tell you to only carry 10% of your body weight. On pilgrimage, you stay focused on the necessities of life: food, water, physical health, a place to sleep, the hospitality and kindness of others. On pilgrimage, you learn to give and receive in gratitude, recognizing that what is given comes from the provision and grace of God. On pilgrimage, a deep trust in God emerges and permeates the journey.

How can we bring the pilgrimage experience to our day-to-day living? How does the spiritual practice of giving shape us into being a *People of the Way*?

We hope that you will use this series to inspire others to embrace the Way of Jesus through the spiritual practice of giving. This year we have included two reflections for the Sunday celebrating All Saints Day, recognizing that some congregations use the All Saints Day readings and others use the designated RCL lections. In addition, we have included a reflection celebrating the Feast Day of St. Francis, as many congregations use these readings for the first Sunday in October. Thank you to our contributing writers for sharing the gift of their experience, strength and hope in Walking the Way, including:

The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves, Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real

The Rev. Laurel Johnston, Executive Director, The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

The Rev. Deon K. Johnson, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan

The Rev. Thomas Eoyang, Rector, Grace Epiphany Church, The Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Jennifer Kitt, Member, Church of the Epiphany, The Episcopal Diocese of California

The Rev. Charles LaFond, Canon Steward, St. John's Cathedral, The Episcopal Diocese of Colorado

Ms. Sandra Montes, Iglesia Episcopal San Mateo, The Episcopal Diocese of Texas

The Rt. Rev. Lawrence Provenzano, Bishop, The Episcopal Diocese of Long Island



The Rev. Laurel Johnston
Former Executive Director
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