



Instituto Id de Cristo Redentor
misioneras y misioneros identes
Presidencia

Message to the Pilgrims on the Idente Jacobean Way

2025 Edition

Dear Idente pilgrims on the Way of St. James:

Beloved friends and fellow travelers, I am happy to send each one of you and that true pilgrim family an embrace full of emotion from Rome, sister city of Santiago and the Holy Land, as these are the three most venerated places by pilgrims and where many conversions, both public and secret, have taken place.

Especially in this Jubilee Year, pilgrims are beginning to arrive in this Eternal City, and this makes us feel even more united with you on the journey you are now beginning.

Our Founder, Fernando Rielo, wanted us to discover in every place, in every point in space, a different form of God's presence. Every place is a temple of his presence. In reality, this is a living intuition in all religions, in which there are sacred places where one can experience an encounter with the divine more intensely than what usually happens in our everyday environment or in the immensity of the cosmos. This gives meaning to pilgrimages.

That is why our hearts feel the same as the Psalms sang: *What joy when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet are standing on your gates, Jerusalem.*

It is important that each of you comes from a different background, with a very different history, but the Camino de Santiago has already been the sacred place of a first miracle by bringing you all together.

When the Way is over, you will feel the reality of this tie, a bond that is more than a beautiful memory; Providence will have built a family for eternity, to share the deepest parts of your lives.

The apostle James is a model for pilgrims, for he spared no effort in proclaiming the Gospel and exposed himself to dangers of all kinds. But he was sure of God's response, and indeed, those austere and bellicose tribes he encountered accepted the Good News against all odds. Furthermore, following Christ's example, in order to bear witness to how to walk together, he gathered seven self-sacrificing collaborators, called the *Apostolic Men*, and above all his two holy helpers, Theodore and Athanasius.

The Holy Spirit will speak to us in unpredictable ways, because he is free as the wind, but his light will surely not fail to illuminate with new clarity two realities that are always present in the life of every human being: ***our pain and our dreams***. Perhaps that is why Fernando Rielo tells us: *Your conversation with God is not that you should speak, but that you should dream* (Transfigurations).

Sometimes we forget that God the Father is the first to dream of us, as the prophet Jeremiah says: *I know the plans I have for you... plans for well-being and not for calamity, to give you a future and a hope.*

And we also find it hard to believe that pain always contains life and abundant fruit: *Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains alone. But if it dies, it produces much fruit* (Jn 12:24).

At the end of the Way, the way we see our pain and our dreams will be different, full of meaning and hope. As a popular saying goes, *God writes straight on crooked lines*.

Thanks to those who have carefully prepared this Route; thanks in advance to those who will welcome and help you on the Way. Thanks also to the millions of souls who have left their mark of love and effort on these paths. Above all, thanks to Our Mother Mary, who personally helped the Apostle James and will also place peace in the hearts of each one of

us to listen to the Word of God in silence, in the Eucharist, and in shared moments.

Every day, but especially in the moment of joy before the Apostle, pray for those who suffer and dream, for all those who have done you good and for those who are unable to change.

We ask him and our father Founder to help us arrive in the presence of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph.

Buen Camino to all!

Luis CASASUS

President of the Idente Missionaries