



# The Holy See

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APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO SANTIAGO DE COMPOSTELA AND ASTURIAS

ON THE OCCASION OF FOURTH WORLD YOUTH DAY

***PRAYER OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II  
BEFORE THE TOMB OF SAINT JAMES***

*Saturday, 19 August 1989*

St James!

Behold me here, once again, beside your tomb  
which I approach today, a pilgrim of all the pathways of the earth,  
to honour your memory and implore your protection.

I come from luminous and perennial Rome  
to you who became a pilgrim, following the footprints of Christ  
and who brought his name and his voice  
to this farthest part of the earth.

I come from Peter's side  
and, as his successor, I bring to you,  
to you who, with him, are a pillar of the Church,  
the fraternal embrace that traverses centuries  
and the song which resounds firm and apostolic in its catholicity.

With me, St James, there is an immense and youthful flood  
which has surged from springs in all the countries of the world.  
Here, you have it, united and still in your presence,  
anxious to refresh its faith in the vibrant example of your life.

We come to this blessed threshold in eager pilgrimage.

We come immersed in this great throng  
which throughout the centuries  
has led people to Compostela  
where you are pilgrim and host, apostle and patron.

And we come today to you because we are on a common journey.  
We are walking towards the end of a millennium  
which we want to close with the seal of Christ.  
We are going further still, to the beginning of a new millennium  
which we want to open in the name of God.

St James,  
for this pilgrimage of ours we need  
your zeal and courage.  
For this reason, to ask them of you, we have come  
as far as this "*finisterrae*" of your apostolic adventures.

Teach us, apostle and friend of Our Lord,  
the WAY which leads to him.  
Open us, preacher of the lands of Spain,  
to the TRUTH you learned from the Master's lips.  
Give us, witness of the Gospel,  
the strength always to love the LIFE .

Place yourself, patron of pilgrims,  
at the head of our Christian youthful pilgrimage.  
And just as, in the past, the peoples walked towards you,  
may you be a pilgrim with us when we go to meet all peoples.  
With you, St James, Apostle and Pilgrim,  
we want to teach the nations of Europe and the world  
that Christ is - today and always -  
the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE.

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