

Please pray for those who are in Cobán this week on pilgrimage.

Here's what our Cobán Pilgrims have to say about their upcoming trip:



Del Smith – This will be my third trip to Cobán. Each time I travel to Cobán, I learn and experience new things. I believe the monks at the Priory and the people in the aldeas and Cobán are teachers sent by God. Please pray that we will be open to God's messages to us through them.

*Working over 40 hours a week and being enrolled in sixteen credits at the University of Minnesota, it is easy to forget to take time to reflect on my life. I am looking forward to having some time to slow down. I am also very happy to be able to spend an entire week with my father. - Kevin Smith*



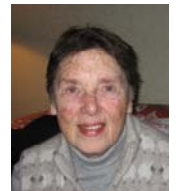
Brother Paul Friedman – It amazes me how, after many years of being in Cobán, the opportunity to return awakens deep feelings of expectation. It's become more than just Cobán. It is the expectation of reconnecting with so many people I have come to know and cherish, there and here, like you at St. Patrick's. But above all, it is the expectation of sharing in the joy of the pilgrims themselves, through the experiences and the people God has in mind to enrich and renew their faith and love during these days of pilgrimage, that most excites me.

*I decided to go to Cobán because it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to experience a country and religious community unlike anything I'd ever seen in the company of a supportive group of pilgrims. It is both an adventure and an opportunity to grow personally and spiritually. – Bob Schnell*



Sheila Hannon – I decided to go to Guatemala because Latin American people have long had a special place in my heart. I want an opportunity to look outside my own issues, do something for others and hopefully deepen my own faith in the process.

*The reason that I decided to go to Guatemala on this pilgrimage is to try to broaden my spiritual life and meet people from another culture and learn from them. – Lucy Fallon*



Jeff Moore - I am returning to Cobán for my 4th visit. In the past, the visits have been in conjunction with the early stages of establishing our "Cobán Connection". Having not been there in a few years, I see this as an opportunity to connect in a much different way. I look forward to blending in as much as possible with the daily routine of the monks, the people of Cobán, and the surrounding area. I look forward to a quieter, more reflective visit.

*I decided to go to Guatemala because I like what we are doing as a parish. I think we are doing the right kinds of things, but I wanted to see for myself, be engaged myself, and try to help find new or different ways to keep building a relationship between the two communities. – Steve Yanda*



Teresa Palcios-Olson – LIVING THE TWO GREAT COMMANDMENTS--Love of God and Love of Neighbor. These are two reasons why I am going back to Cobán. God has taught us to love, and this is my way to tell all the people in Cobán that they are close to us and that their love makes us feel renewed.

*This will be my 4th trip to Cobán, but my first as one of the co-leaders of the pilgrimage group. I return again to learn and be reminded from the beautiful people of this beautiful country what it means to be truly happy. Happy not because of how many possessions or how much money we have, but happy because we are all God's beloved children and share one universal faith which we can share and celebrate in any*

