



Church of St. Patrick | 6820 St. Patrick's Lane | Edina, MN 55439 | 952.941.3164 | www.stpatrick-edina.org

Cobán Pilgrimage Reflection

My name is Emmy Marolt and I have been a parishioner at St. Pat's since 2000. I signed up in April 2008 to join this year's pilgrimage to Cobán. It was a long wait, a long year with many life changes, but THANKS be to God I was able to make the journey.

What a gift! You know how sometimes in life someone says to you, "It is hard to explain. It is something that you just need to experience." Or, if someone says, "To understand what I am saying you need to be there!" Well this is one of those life experiences but I will do my best to share mine with you.



My most memorable experience was attending the Sunday Mass which Father Carlos said in Q'eqchi'. Hearing the words of the Gospel in a language that I did not understand didn't matter. My eyes witnessed the common bond that all of us share as children of God. The music was toe tapping, the church was filled with incense, and the participation by everyone (including the local dogs walking the aisles) will always be a cherished memory. We also attended one of Father Cletus' daily Masses with the Carmelite Sisters. It was a blessing to see Father, who is over ninety years old and can genuflect better than me, say Mass. Due to our connections with Brother Paul from Blue Cloud Abbey we were able to meet the Sisters who remain sequestered and devote their lives to prayer.

Finally, I participated in handing out St. Patrick's water filters at two Aldeas. The gratitude and the hugs in welcoming and thanking us was a humbling experience. They are so happy and live such a joyous life; this was a great reminder to me to be thankful for what I have.

I was so proud and filled with joy in seeing the name of the Church of St Patrick on the water filters. You should be too!

- Parishioner & Pilgrim Emmy Marolt

