

# Camino part 3

# Buen Camino, peregrino!

- Physical & spiritual walk into our own heart
- Collegial determination & sacrifice
- Spiritual quest continues; flesh & stone change
- My outstanding memory of the Camino is the culture
  - Good Road =?“may your time be fruitful”
  - Shared among volunteers, locals, peregrinos, even tourists
  - catholic church serves humanity
  - no hierarchy in the cold rain or hot sun

- ❖ *Go in peace to love and serve*
  - *God loves us all.*

## Images:

- ❖ Cathedral: joyous completion; embracing St James at the high altar; botafumiero
- ❖ Poncho hard right in the wind
- ❖ Ice fog near Foncebaron
- ❖ Unexpected encounters; Sharleen’s voice in Burgos; kindness of strangers

# Thoughts about pilgrimage on Vancouver Island

A **pilgrimage** is a journey or search of moral or spiritual significance. Typically, it is a journey to a shrine or other location of importance to a person's beliefs and faith

❖ What I see today on Vancouver Island:

- issues generally considered to be of moral or spiritual significance:
  1. Nature resplendent [old growth forest; ocean]
  2. Repentance about the experience of First Nations
- Places of importance to beliefs and faith
  1. Parks [e.g. Cathedral Grove; Pacific Rim/Juan de Fuca]
  2. Residential school sites [e.g. Alert Bay, Port Alberni] razed
- Highly individualized spirituality

❖ Bishop McMenamie from Alert Bay to Victoria; then Port Alberni; Cowichan Valley; Port Renfrew

# Vancouver Island Pilgrimage Needs and Exploration

## Needs

- ❖ Route of journey safe for reflection & varied ages
- ❖ Supportive infrastructure
  - ❑ Social: churches; safety; public.
  - ❑ Physical: rest and reflection points; toilets; food; overnight.
  - ❑ Information: internet; route maps.

## Exploration

- ?? What is our story [stories]
- ?? Who might be attracted
- ?? Is there a culminating end point – why is it significant, and to whom
- ?? Is there a minimum length
- ?? How do we share experiences
- ?? How do we spread the word
- ?? Is there a managing entity

# *Vancouver Island Pilgrimage*

## *personal thoughts*

- *Humans live in a double helix – life and inanimate energy/matter – that is one*
    - *DNA is also a double helix*
  - *The human body is uniquely human, and also an assemblage of symbiotic microbes and more*
    - *A human will die without gut bacteria.*
    - *A species of mite lives only on the human eye*
    - ***Should my self-image include or exclude the bacteria? the mite?***
- 1 Pilgrimage*
- *Symbol = 1*
  - *Coloured blue [the sea and sky] and green [photosynthesis]*
  - *Destination = wisdom*
  - *Route = infinitely varied*

*When you hit  
a stone wall:  
check the door!  
find a path!*

*Questions  
?*

