

Pilgrimage

Interview with participant

1. Could you describe briefly the experience for you this year?

Starting to feel pain and when you get there and you're looking at the pain, you're feeling your pain but you know that it's nothing compared to The Pain. You know, so I found it very moving and a time for great reflection. It kind of brings it home to you and it makes you think about it a little bit differently. There is one station of the cross every kilometer – this year it was a there and back. You're counting them down the whole way through, but then when you get to the final station and you realize you're a kilometer to the end it's like "oh, no" [laughs].

There is someone who goes along and assists people who are in need of aid and makes sure that we are all well hydrated – so there are some advantages to this pilgrimage. He comes along on his ATV and has water and makes sure that everyone is doing all right and doesn't require any help. So that's a positive.

I didn't actually walk it this year, I had to stay back and assist people and make sure that everything went smoothly. And I have a nagging injury, but I walked a few kilometers each way and I've walked it many times before. Many, many years in fact. I drive it to assist the ATV driver and help those who require a pick-up along the way. I also had water and supplies in my car to distribute this year. Because of the flooding we had to change the route – and by changing the route it allowed car access this year – so I just took my little car and assisted throughout. Made sure everyone was okay and no one needed help – no one left behind. But the road is not really built for cars [laughs].