



Spring 2017

## Uptown as Pilgrimage Destination

Jon Schmidt

Loyola University Chicago, jschmidt12@luc.edu

Follow this and additional works at: [https://ecommons.luc.edu/ignatianpedagogy\\_er](https://ecommons.luc.edu/ignatianpedagogy_er)



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), [Inequality and Stratification Commons](#), and the [Religious Thought, Theology and Philosophy of Religion Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Schmidt, Jon, "Uptown as Pilgrimage Destination" (2017). *Ignatian Pedagogy Educational Resources*. 4. [https://ecommons.luc.edu/ignatianpedagogy\\_er/4](https://ecommons.luc.edu/ignatianpedagogy_er/4)

This Course Material is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Center for Ignatian Pedagogy at Loyola eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ignatian Pedagogy Educational Resources by an authorized administrator of Loyola eCommons. For more information, please contact [ecommons@luc.edu](mailto:ecommons@luc.edu).



This work is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-No Derivative Works 3.0 License](#).  
© The Author 2017

# Uptown as pilgrimage destination

Final Project – Ignatian Certificate Program

Jon Schmidt

# Pilgrimage as sacred journey

- *We don't think about pilgrimage in this country. We don't think about meditation. The idea of taking a six-week walk is totally foreign to most Americans. But it's probably exactly what we need. Emilio Estevez*
- *My pilgrimage wasn't to a place like Lourdes or Jerusalem, but it was to a holy place where sacredness occurs each day. Pilgrimage should be a daily undertaking, a desire to encounter the living God in every person we meet, in every place. Because if we can begin to love our forgotten co-worker, the person in the street, or even our enemy, we will, without doubt, encounter God. Andy Ott*
- *"Life is a pilgrimage. Each moment is to be lived in depth, because each moment contains God, hidden within it." Banani Ray*

# Formal Elements of a pilgrimage

- Movement
- Motivation
  - Request a favor
  - Offer thanks
  - Fulfill a vow
  - Express penitence
  - Meet obligation
  - Gain salvation
- Sacred destination
- Magnitude

Stoddard, Robert. (1997)

# Process of a pilgrimage

1. Call to find meaning that requires us to leave daily obligations
2. Separate from safe and familiar
3. Pain and sacrifice
4. Contemplation
5. Encounter – sighting is the climax of the journey to reconnect with creation
6. Completion and Return – discovery that meaning lies in the familiar of one's own world

# What does a pilgrimage offer?

- Time
- Community Building
  - Among peers
  - In community
- Leaving our safety to enter into a new community
- Preliminary understanding of the lived experience of a new community
- Context
- Internal Reflection
- Internal Clarity

# Seeking Connections

Ignatian Paradigm	Pilgrimage Elements	Stages of the Uptown Journey
<b>Context – ours/theirs</b>	Leave daily concerns Separation from safety	Stories of Struggle
<b>Experience</b>	Pain/Sacrifice	Holy Sites of struggle
<b>Action</b>	Contemplation/Encounter	Engaging the struggle
<b>Reflection</b>	Completion/Return	Reflection toward action

# Uptown Pilgrimage

- **Stories of Struggle**

- What is the context of others?
- What has shaped contemporary experience?
- How are community members situated based on social, political, economic history?
- How have individuals and communities struggled for justice?
- How has power played out in our community?

- **Sites of Struggle (holy places)**

- What empowers individuals to step into the struggle?
  - Spirituality? All is lost? Charism? Relationships?
- Housing, Education, Youth, Faith, Economic Development, Immigration/Refugees, Arts, Policing, Health
- Who has suffered/endured pain?
- What has been won? What has been lost?



# Uptown pilgrimage

- **Engaging the Struggle**

- Issue areas
- Organizing and advocacy
- Intersectionality
- Power
- Community

- **Reflection**

- What is our context? How is it different? The same?
- Do we share struggles? Whose side are we on?
- Community as external becoming internal
- Internal community becoming outward facing
- Can this experience enable us to consider social justice that is both externally and internally reflective?
- What does it mean to be in solidarity? With whom? Why?