

Pilgrimage: a sacred journey Pilgrimage sites serving a variety of religious traditions



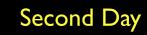
41 Pilgrimages to the Chartres Cathedral





Ancient/Modern Pilgrimage: Walking the Camino: 500 miles across Spain

days later







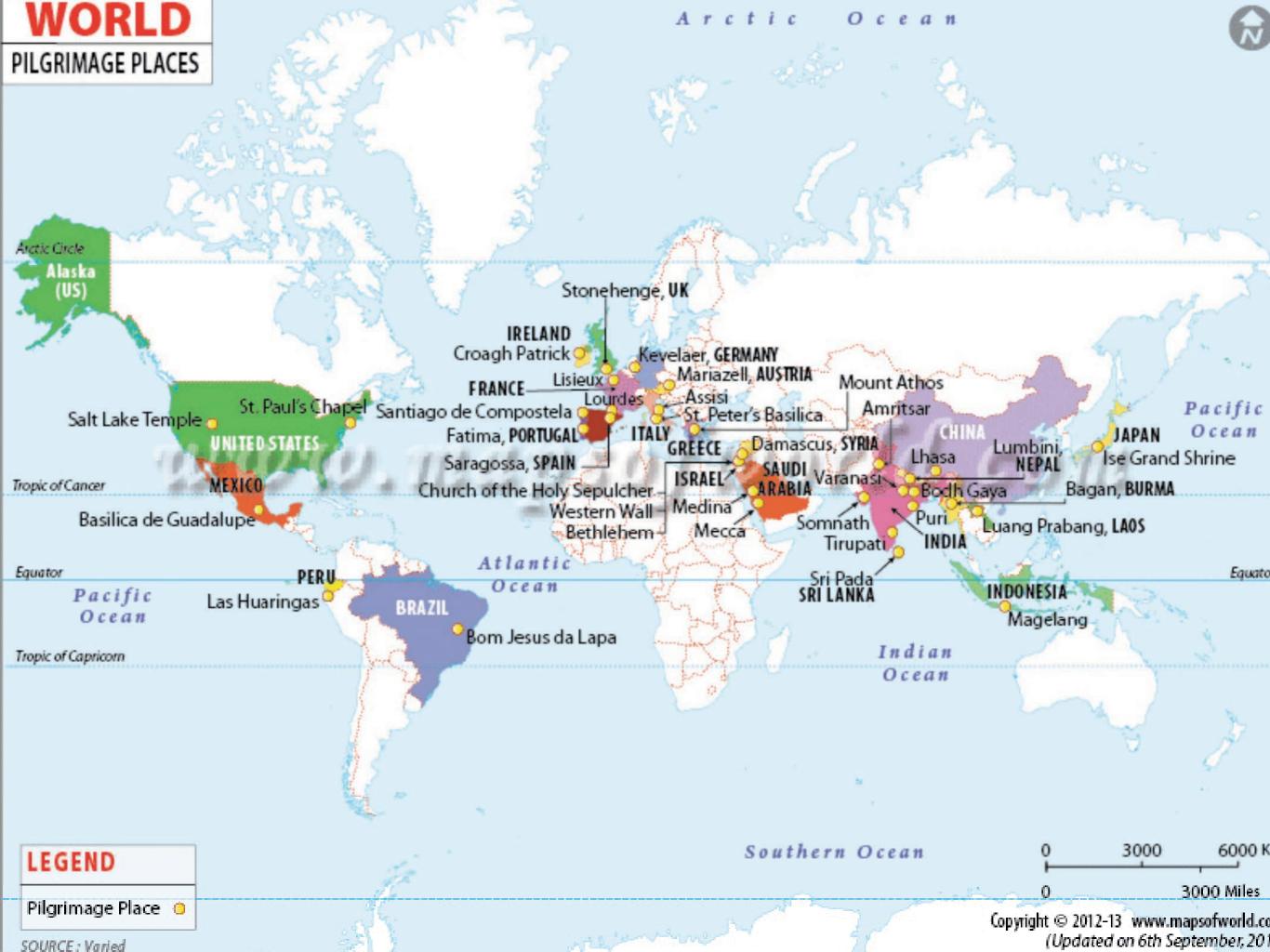


Celebrating the journey: Finisterre









Pilgrimage Ritual

Stand.

As we bow our heads, we remember that the first step on the path is humility.

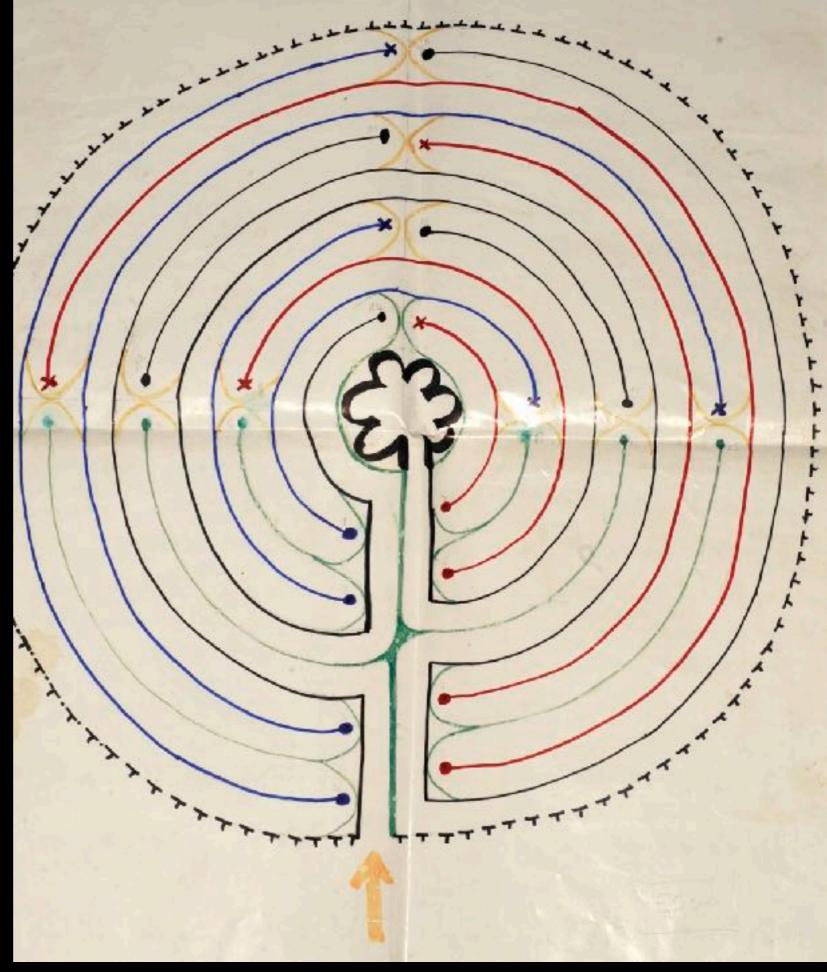
The second step, letting go, is symbolized by holding two fists out in front and opening them downward.

The third step, receiving, is honored by turning the palms up in a gesture of openness.

For the fourth step, both hands are placed over the heart.

Then, all pray,"May the path lead us home."

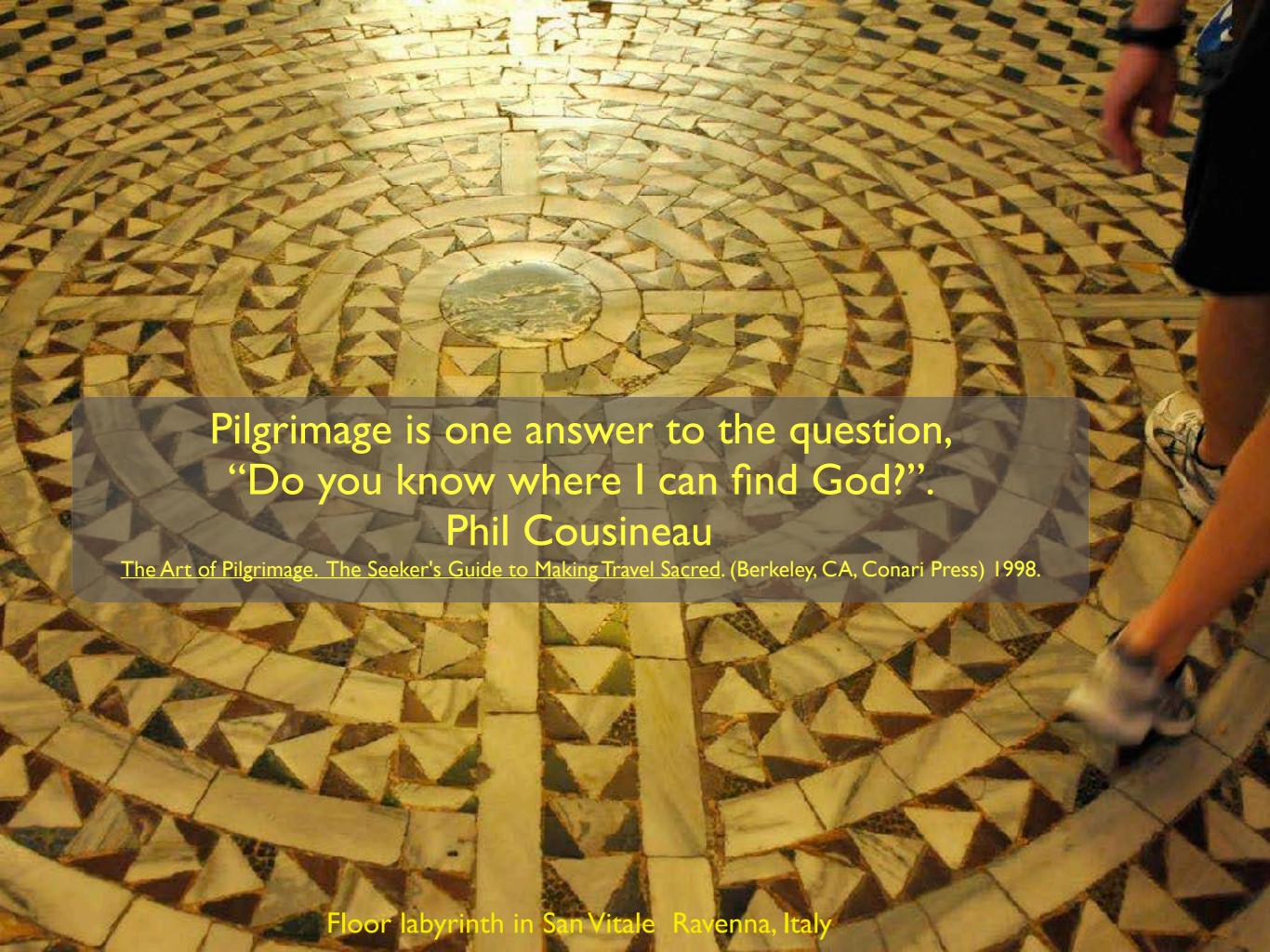
Created by:Ceille Tewksbury tewksbur@sover.net

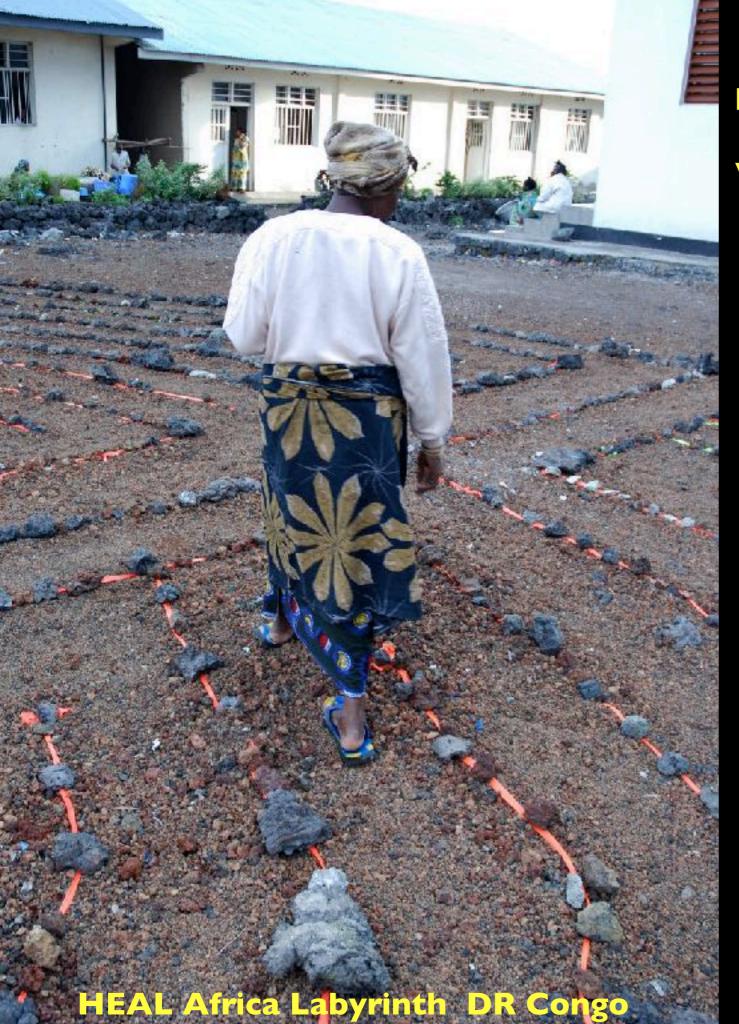


Drawing prepared for an installation at a mountainside parish in northern Rwanda

Pilgrim: One who is moving in response to a spiritual invitation. Pilgrimage: An internal and external spiritual journey involving known and unknown destinations.

Holy water
Chartres Cathedral, France





Defining Pilgrimage

Entering the flow of sacred history. Traveling to the ends of the earth. Visiting the depths of your worst self. Seeking inspiration. Shunning limitations. Clinging to hope. Releasing cherished illusions. Experiencing fear's torments. Being misunderstood. Misunderstanding. Welcoming grace. Exhausting your resources. Leaving. Arriving. Leaving. Arriving. Receiving undeserved help. Seeing while being seen. Sharing. Withholding. Moving, always moving. **Extending kindness. Getting lost.** Being found. Orienting your heart.

What isn't pilgrimage? Staying stuck.

How pilgrimages and labyrinth walks differ...



Pilgrimage preparation ^



Community blessing of pilgrims ^



The pilgrim's prayer from the medieval Codex Callixtus (c. 1140)

"God, You called your servant Abraham from Ur in Chaldea, watching over him in all his wanderings, and guided the Hebrew people as they crossed the desert. Guard these your children who, for the love of your Name, make a pilgrimage to Compostela. Be their companion on the way, their guide at the crossroads, their strength in weariness, their defense in dangers, their shelter on the path, their shade in the heat, their light in the darkness, their comfort in discouragement, and the firmness of their intentions; that through your guidance, they may arrive safely at the end of their journey and, enriched with grace and virtue, may return to their homes filled with salutary and lasting joy."



Pilgrimages are primarily communal events. Labyrinth walks are generally personal; they may involve community.





Pentecost student pilgrimage (4,000 young people) from Chartres to Paris (2011)

"...although a labyrinth might sometimes have represented a pilgrimage, I have found no indisputable medieval examples of the metaphor, and in the absence of the tiniest shred of evidence that pavement labyrinths were used for real or substitute pilgrimages, the hydra-like hypothesis should be dismembered for good."

Penelope Reed Doob. <u>The Idea of the Labyrinth from Classical Antiquity</u>
<u>through the Middle Ages</u>
(Ithica, NY: Cornell University Press, 1990) 121.

19th century sketch of clerics moving through a turf labyrinth in England



"...the [labyrinth] had been the site of a substitute pilgrimage during the eighteenth century. ...At Arras (France) the pious recited prayers on their knees as they made their way around [the labyrinth], and here the full pilgrimage was said to require an hour. Finally, although no document explicitly says as much, there is a strong reason to believe that this ritual was performed at Chartres as early as the seventeenth century."

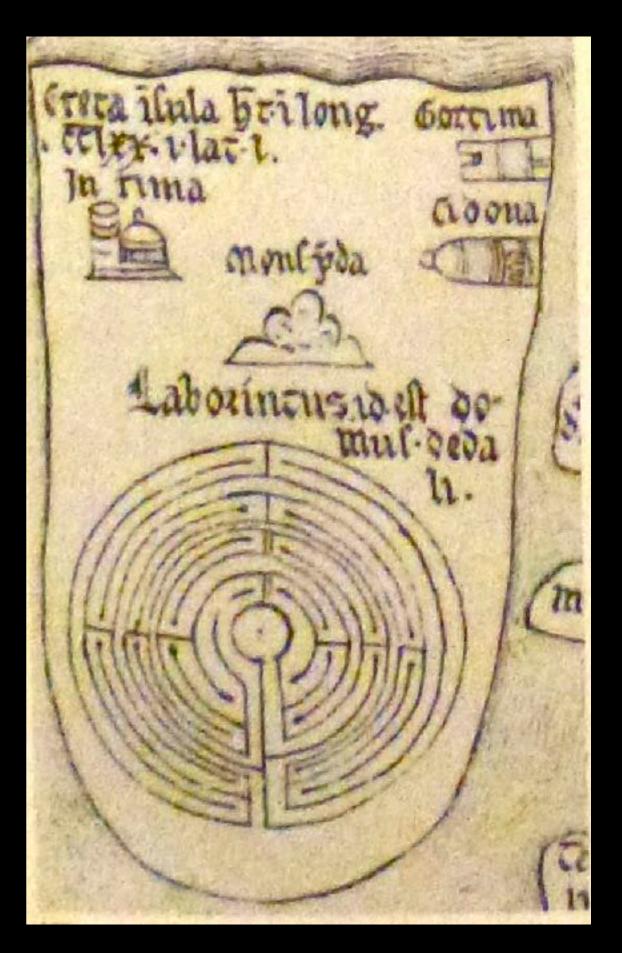
Craig Wright. The Maze and the Warrior. (Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 2001) 210.



Mappa Mundi: World Map Herreford Cathedral, England 1276-1283

Island of Crete and its labyrinth





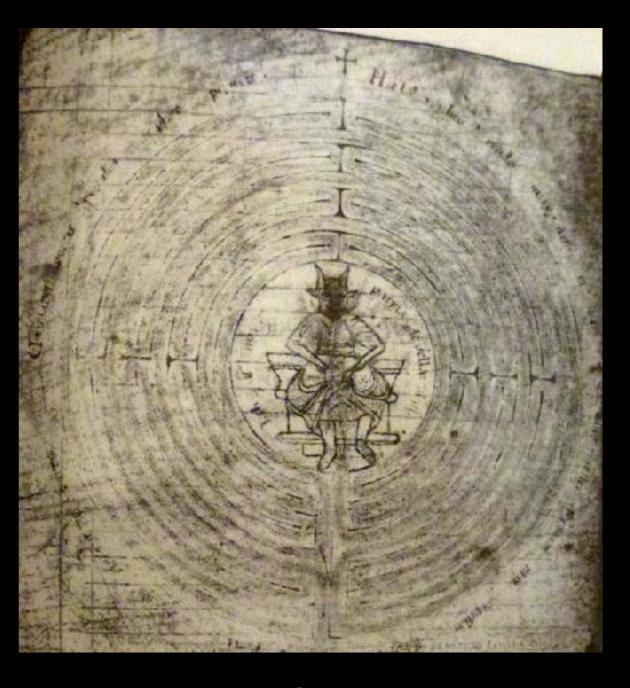


Medieval Manuscript Labyrinths

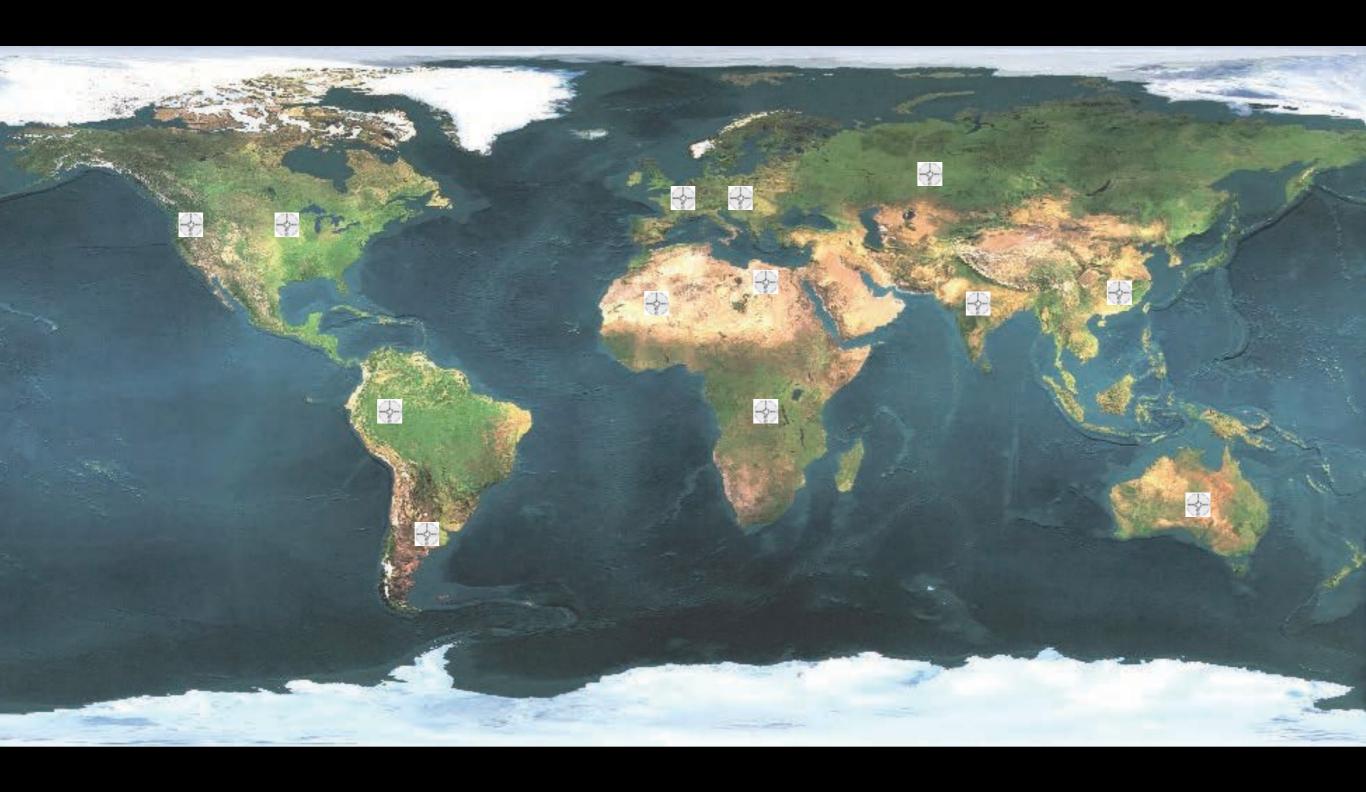
10th century



llth century



12th century



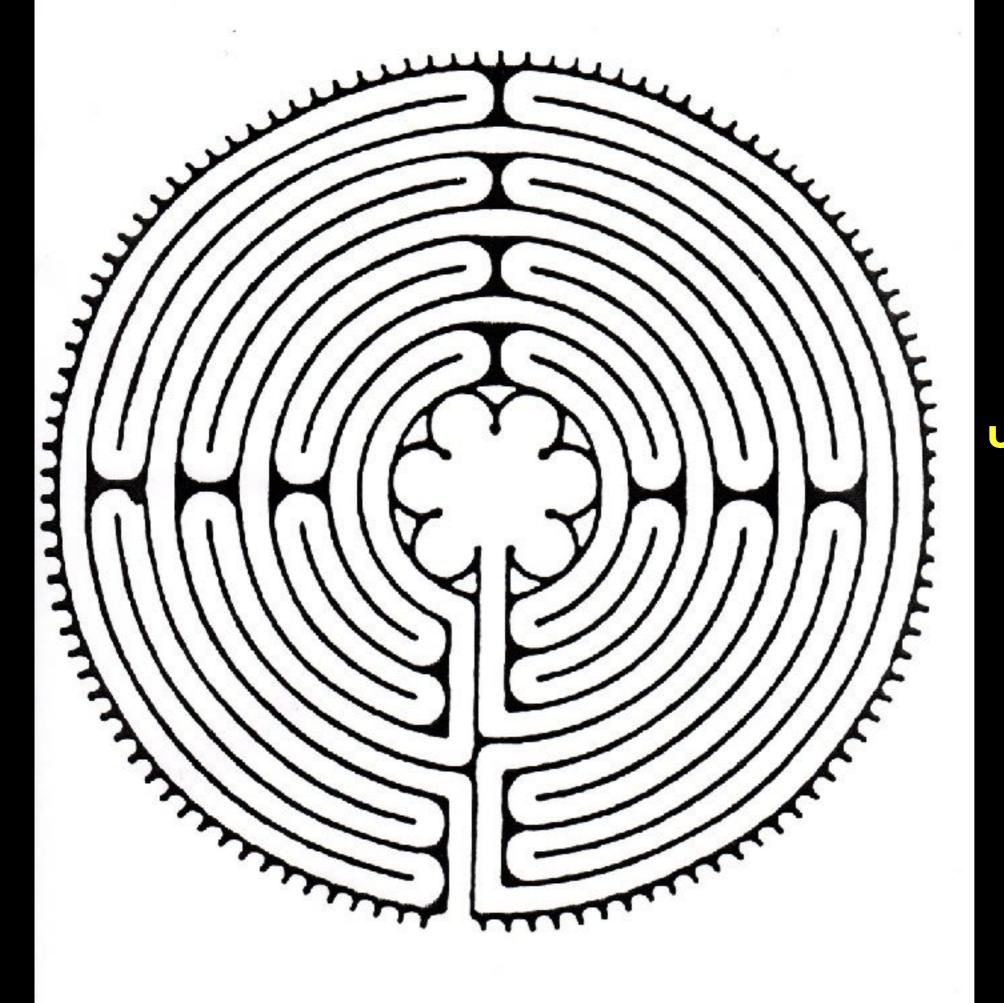
Pilgrimage Experience:

Use your imagination to make a pilgrimage to a labyrinth.





Using paper labyrinths for mini-pilgrimages



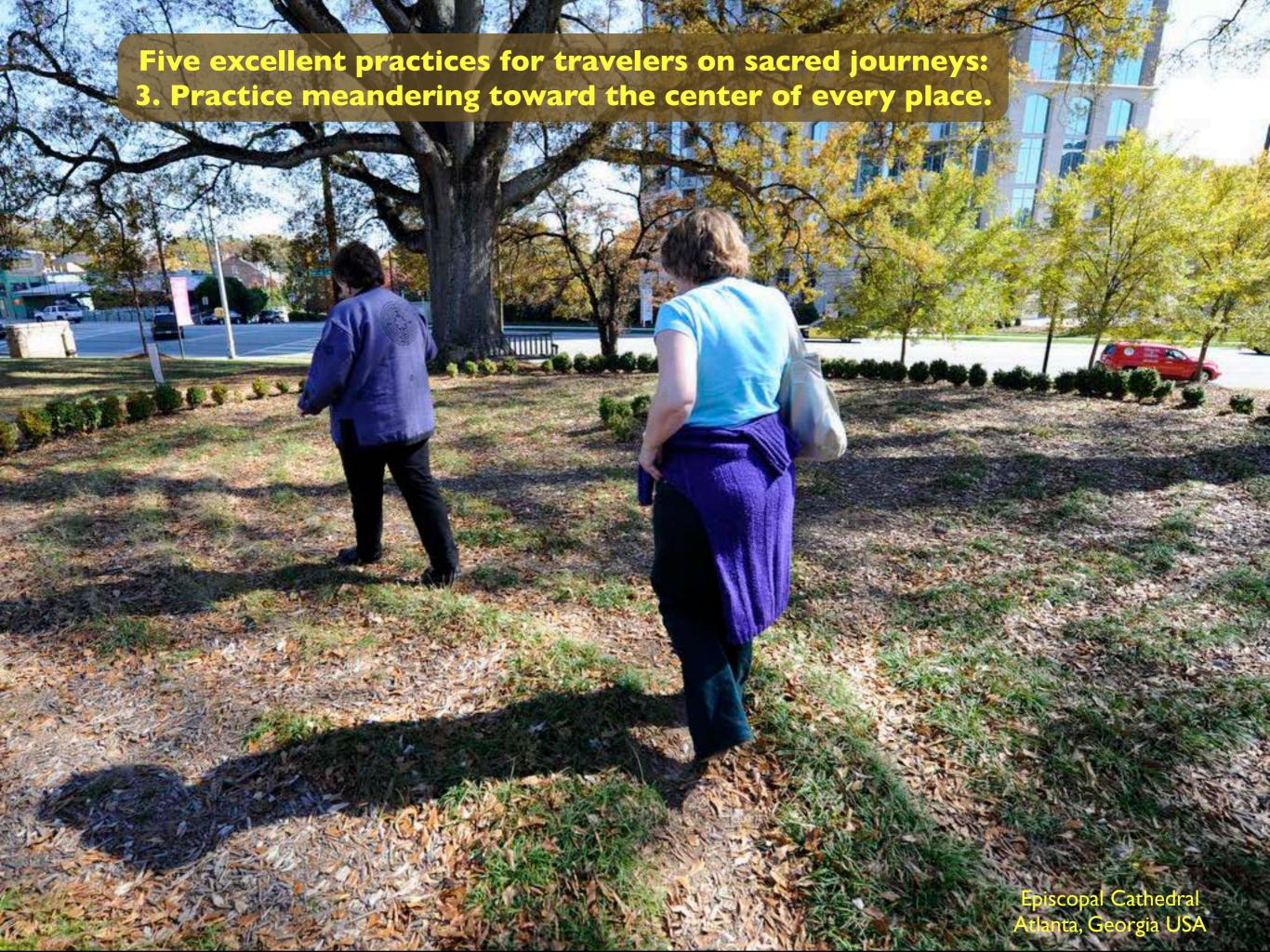
Using paper labyrinths for mini-pilgrimages

The Journey by Mary Oliver









Five excellent practices for travelers on sacred journeys:

4. Practice the ritual of reading sacred texts.



Friday labyrinth walk Chartres Cathedral, France



























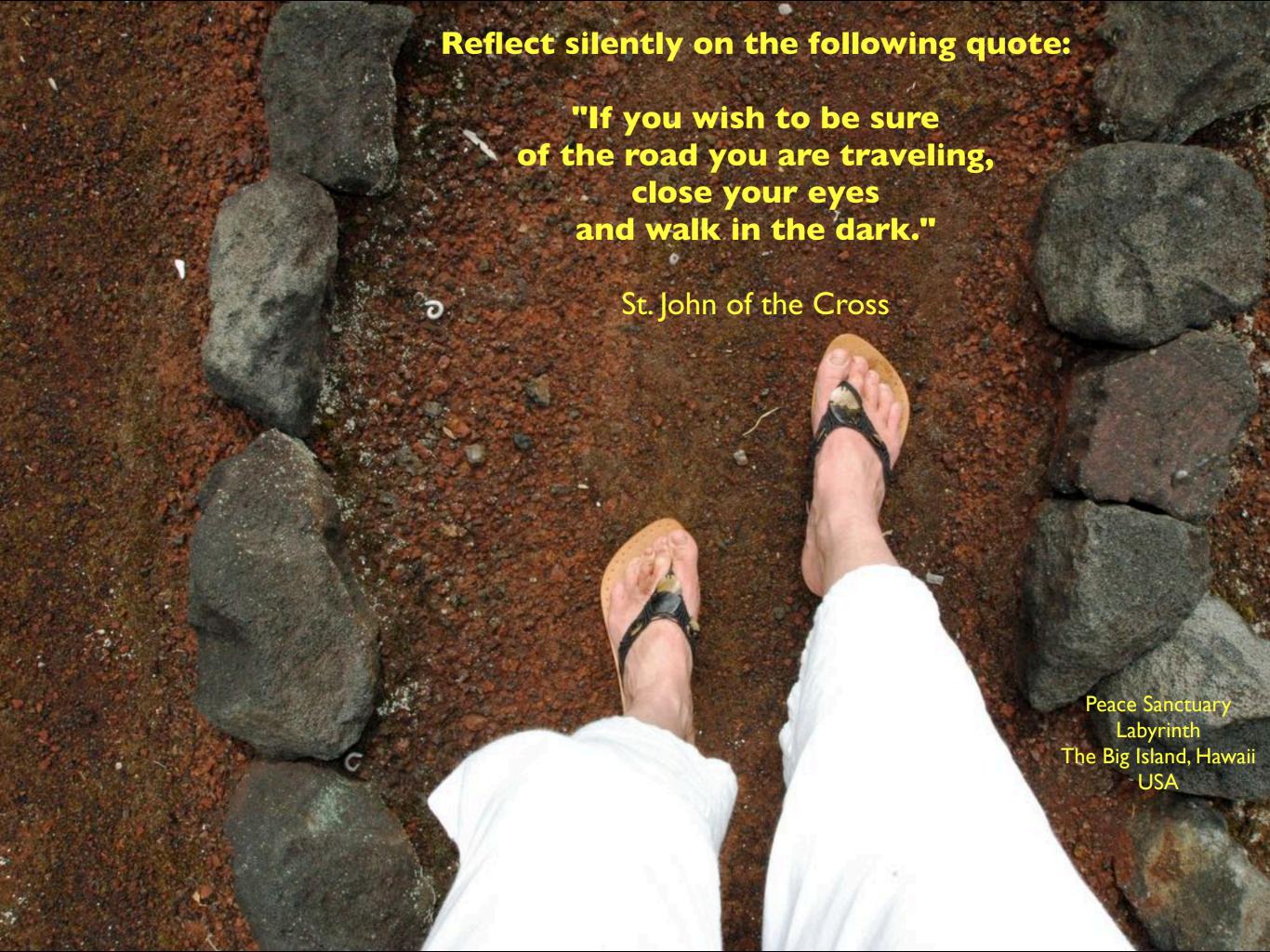
Labyrinth and pilgrimage experiences share...underlying themes of birth and death.



Hopi man in the maze basket labyrinth

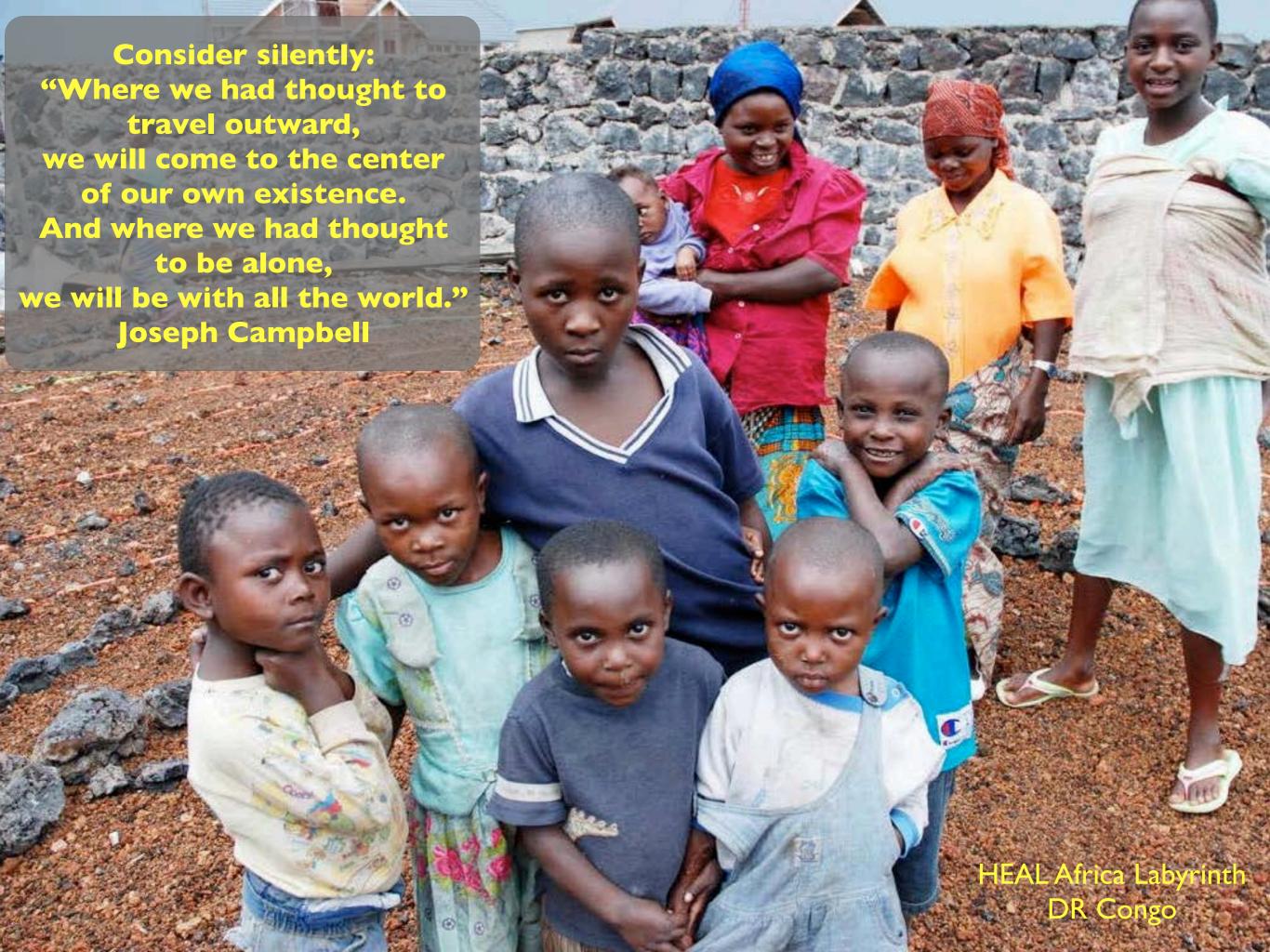
Wickenburg Museum AZ museum



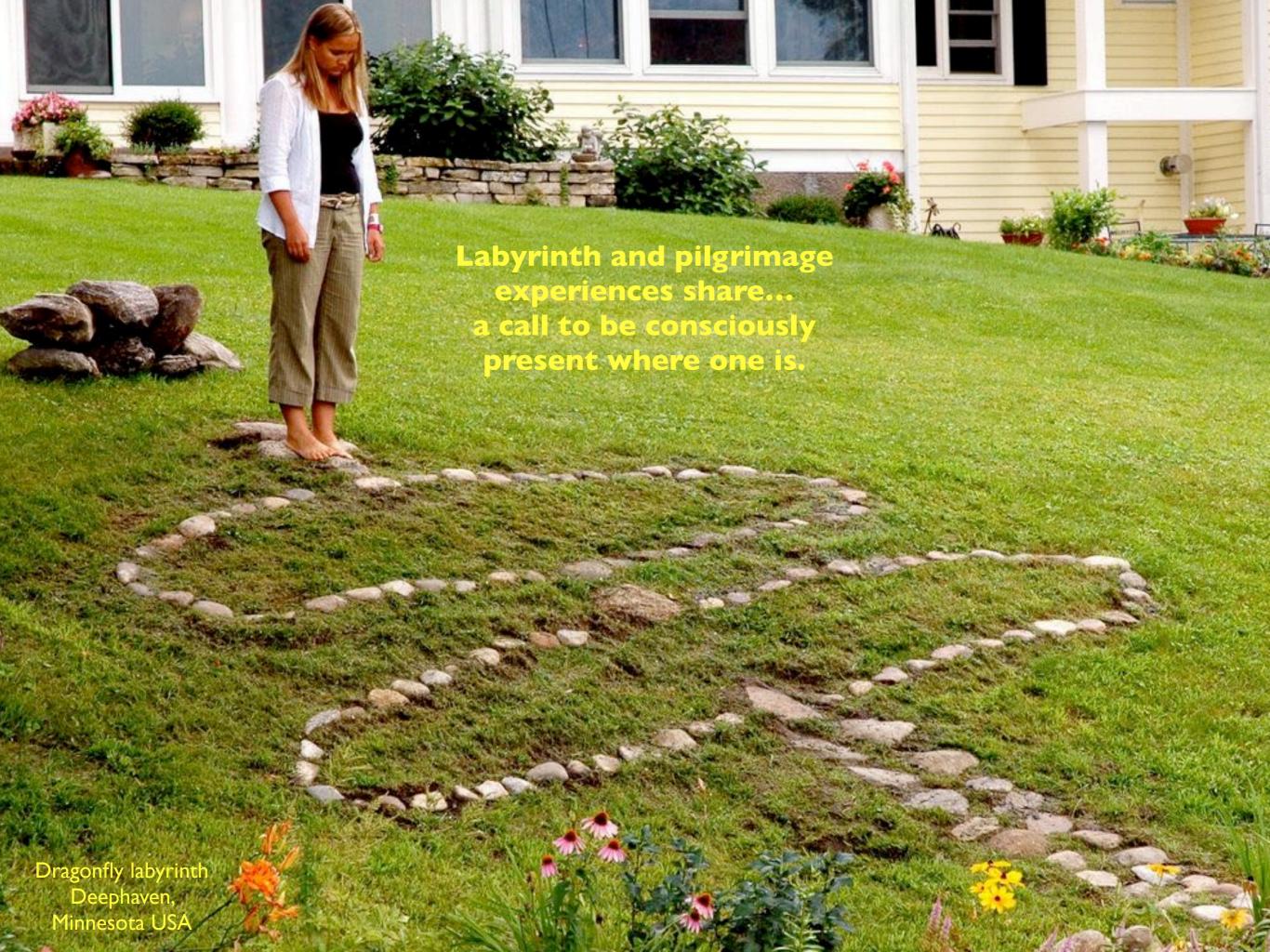












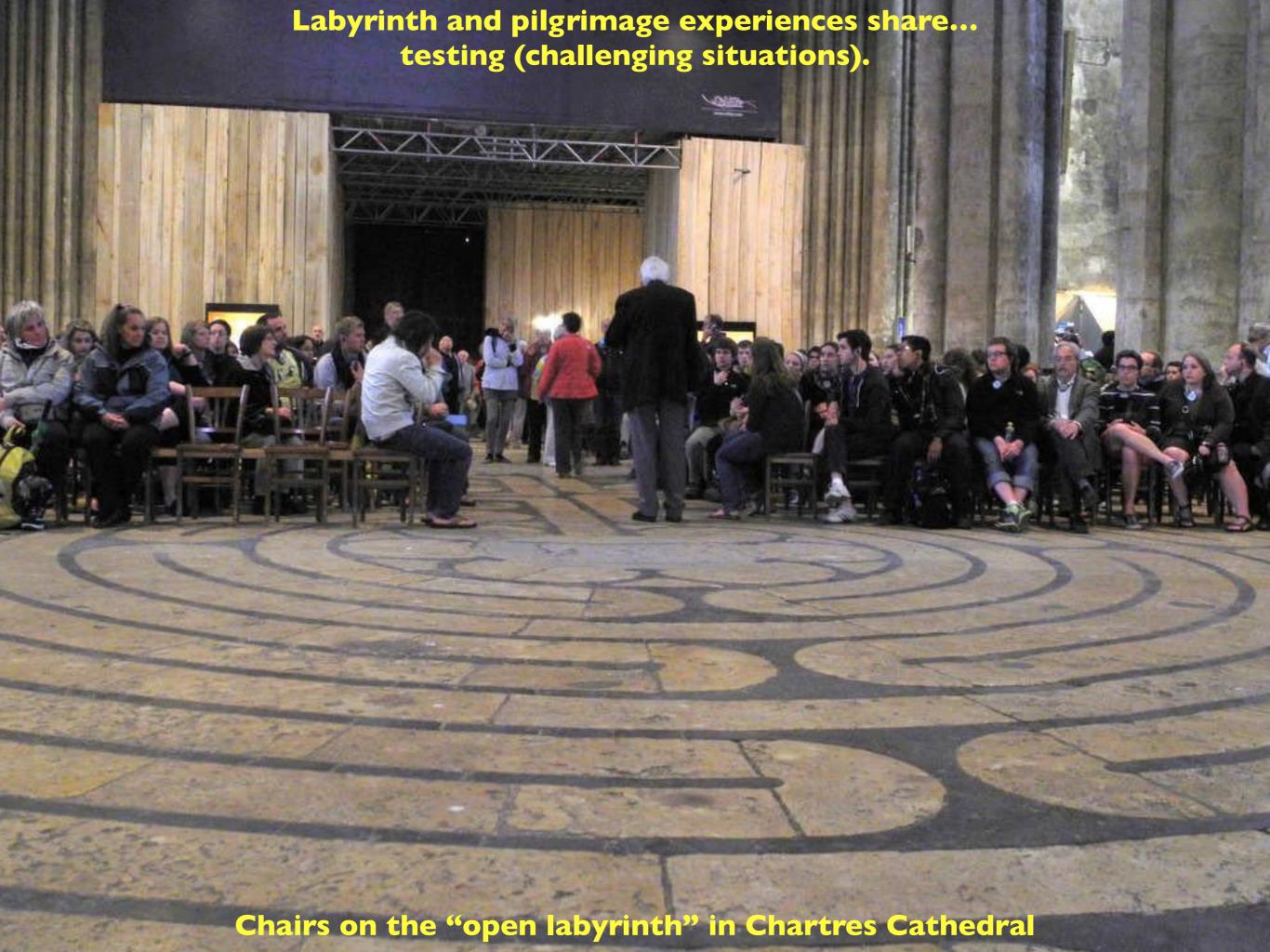


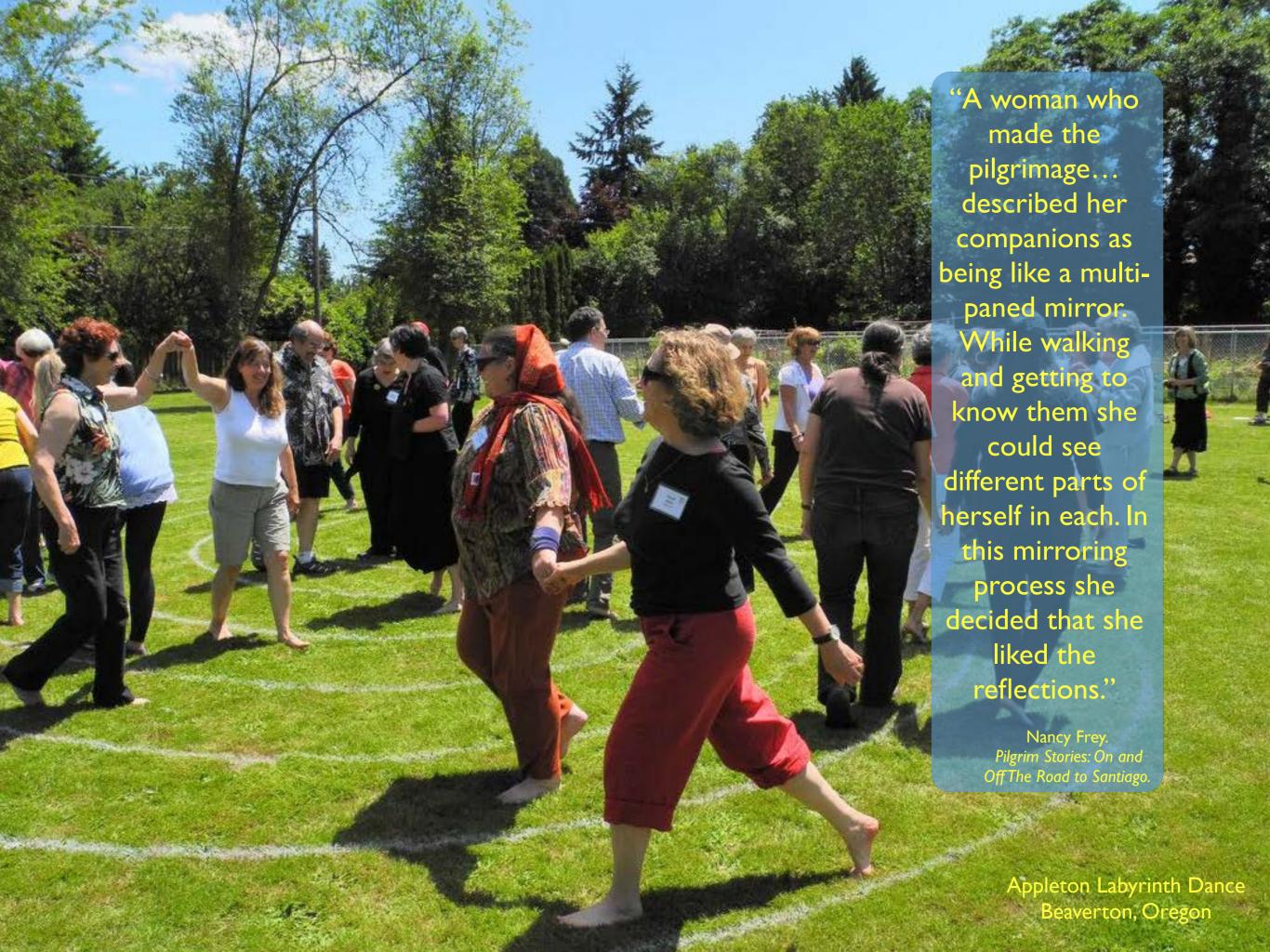
Using paper labyrinths for mini-pilgrimages

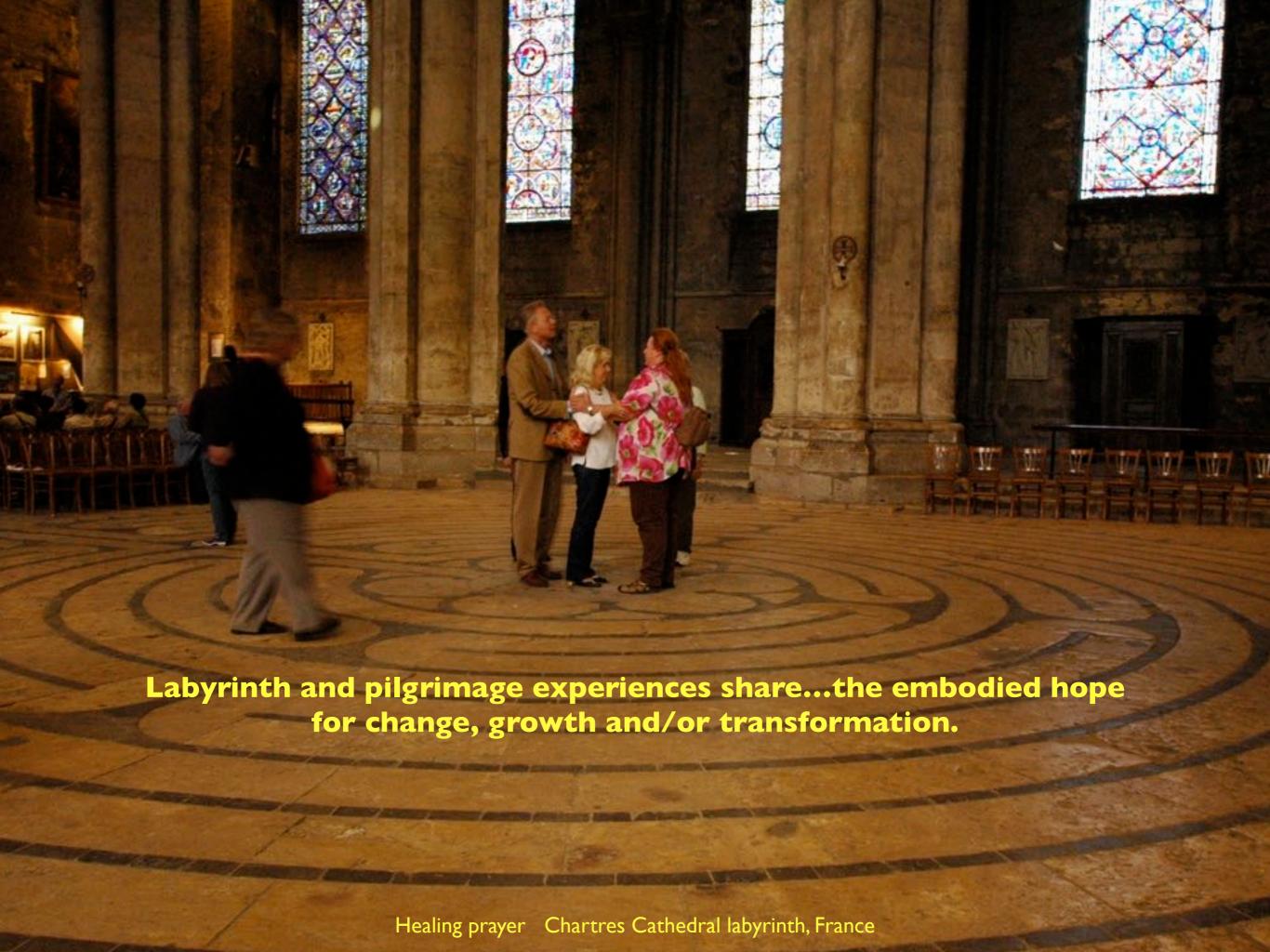
"For the Traveler" by John O'Donohue





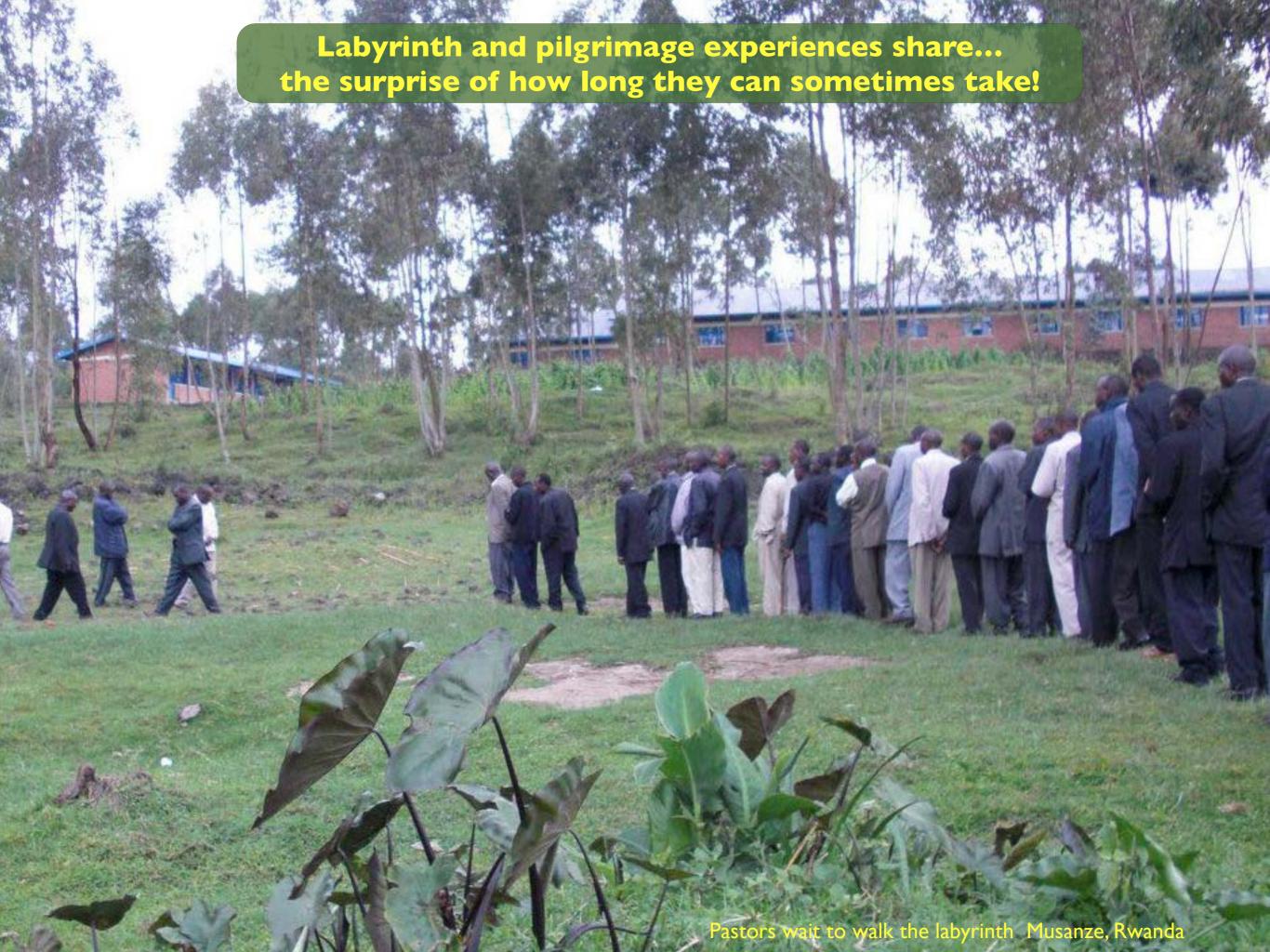




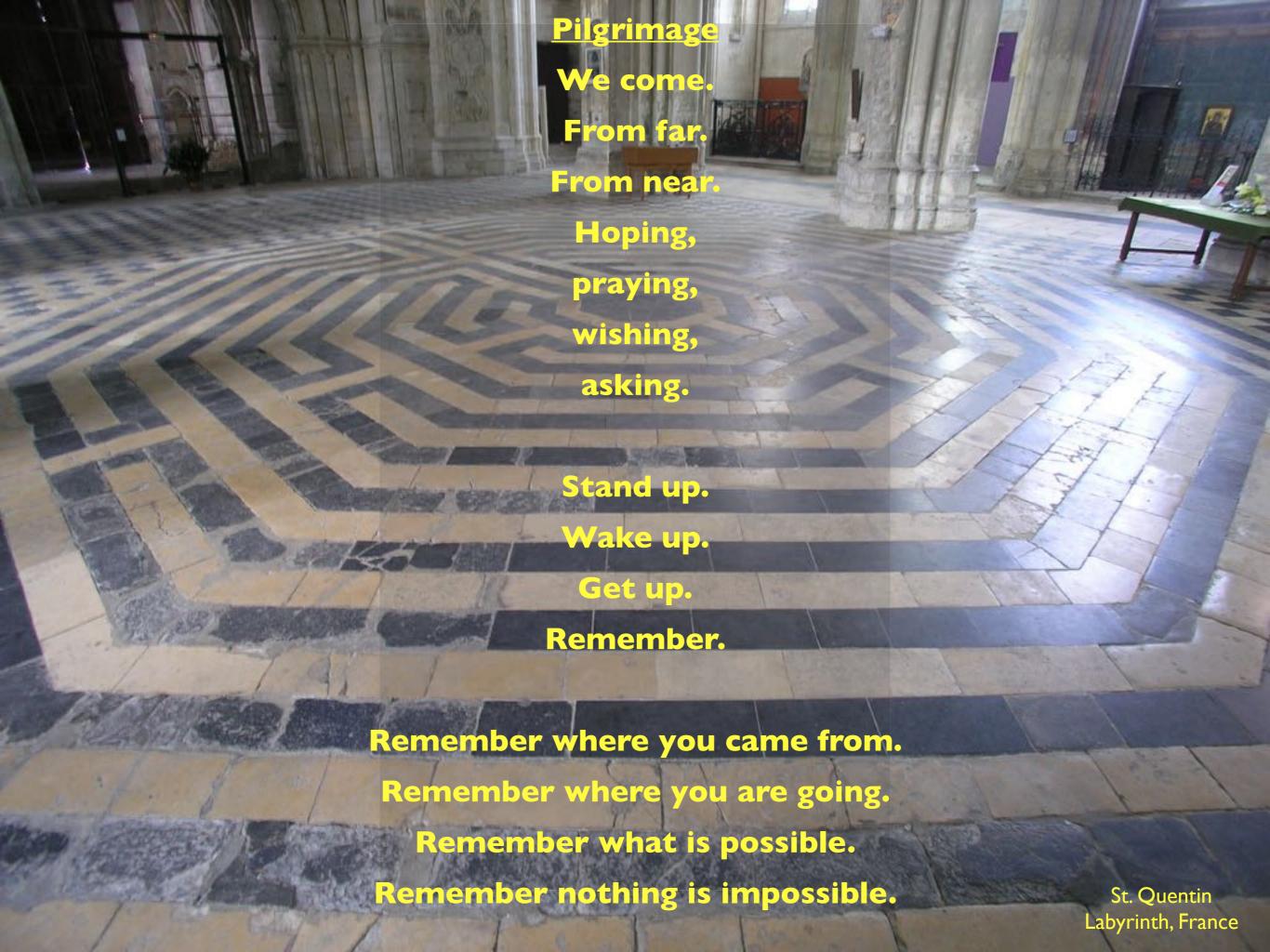






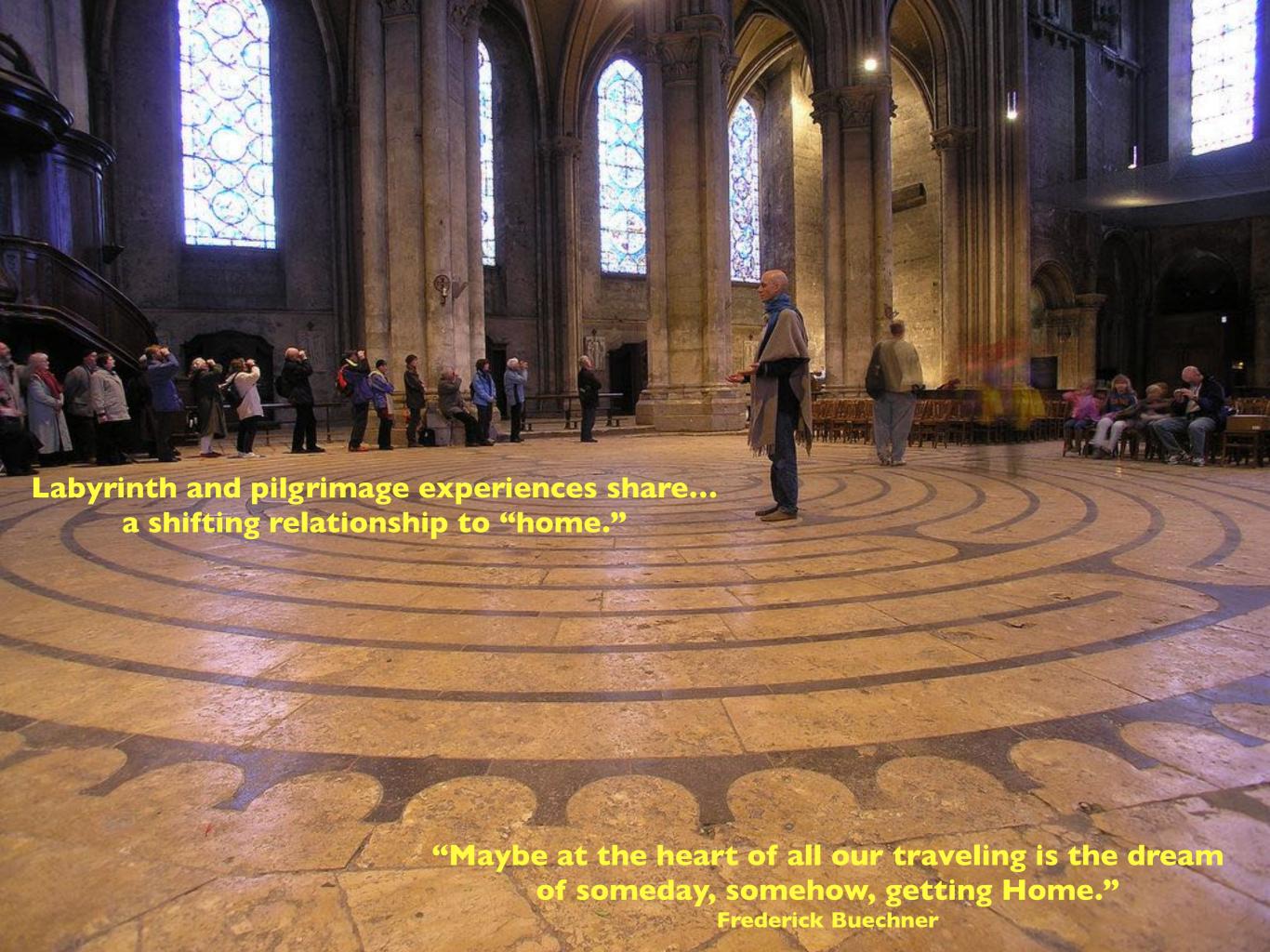














Labyrinth and pilgrimage experiences share... unlimited opportunities to feel and express gratitude.

Careleton College Labyrinth Northfield, Minnesota USA







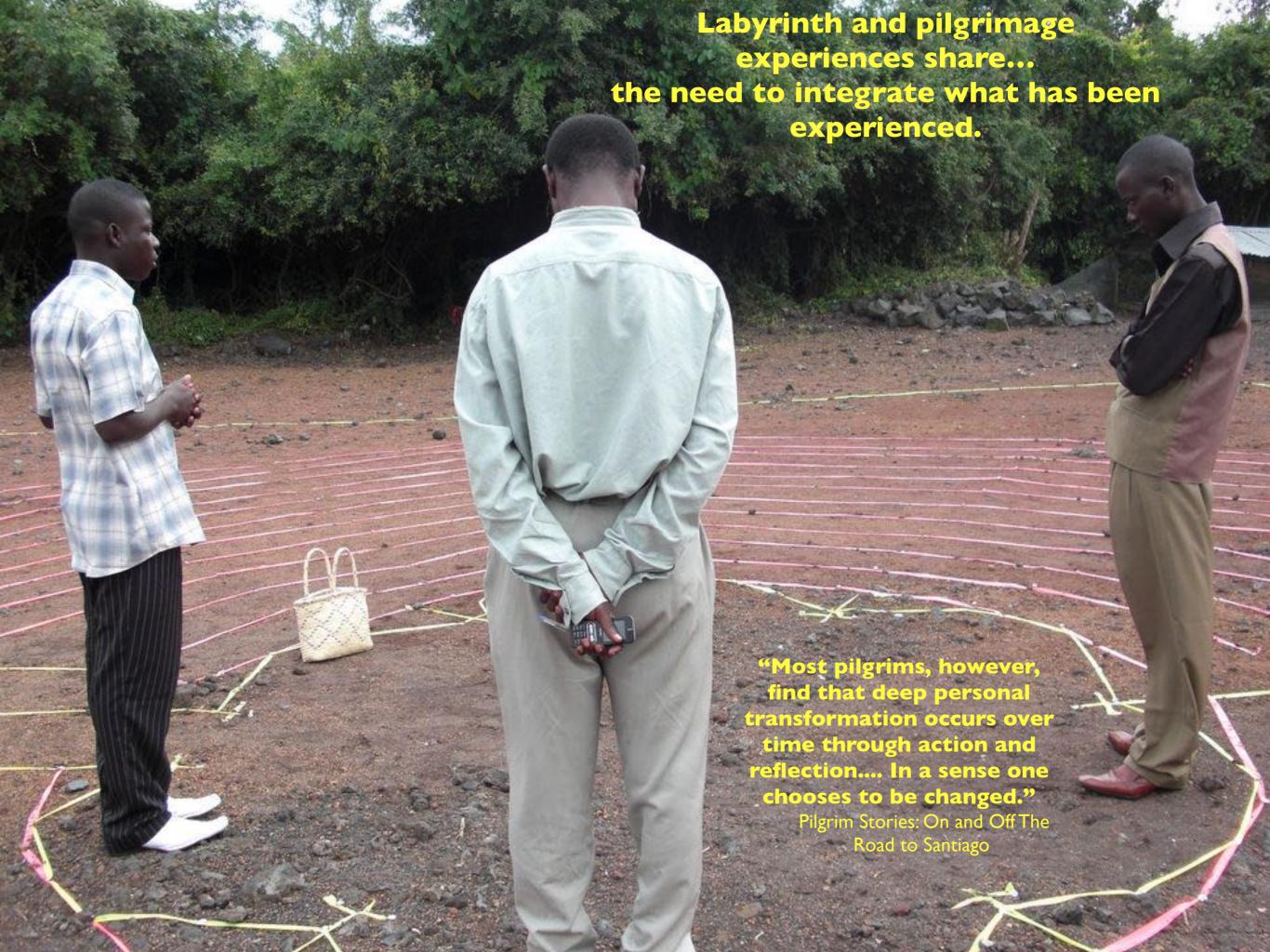
Using paper labyrinths for minipilgrimages

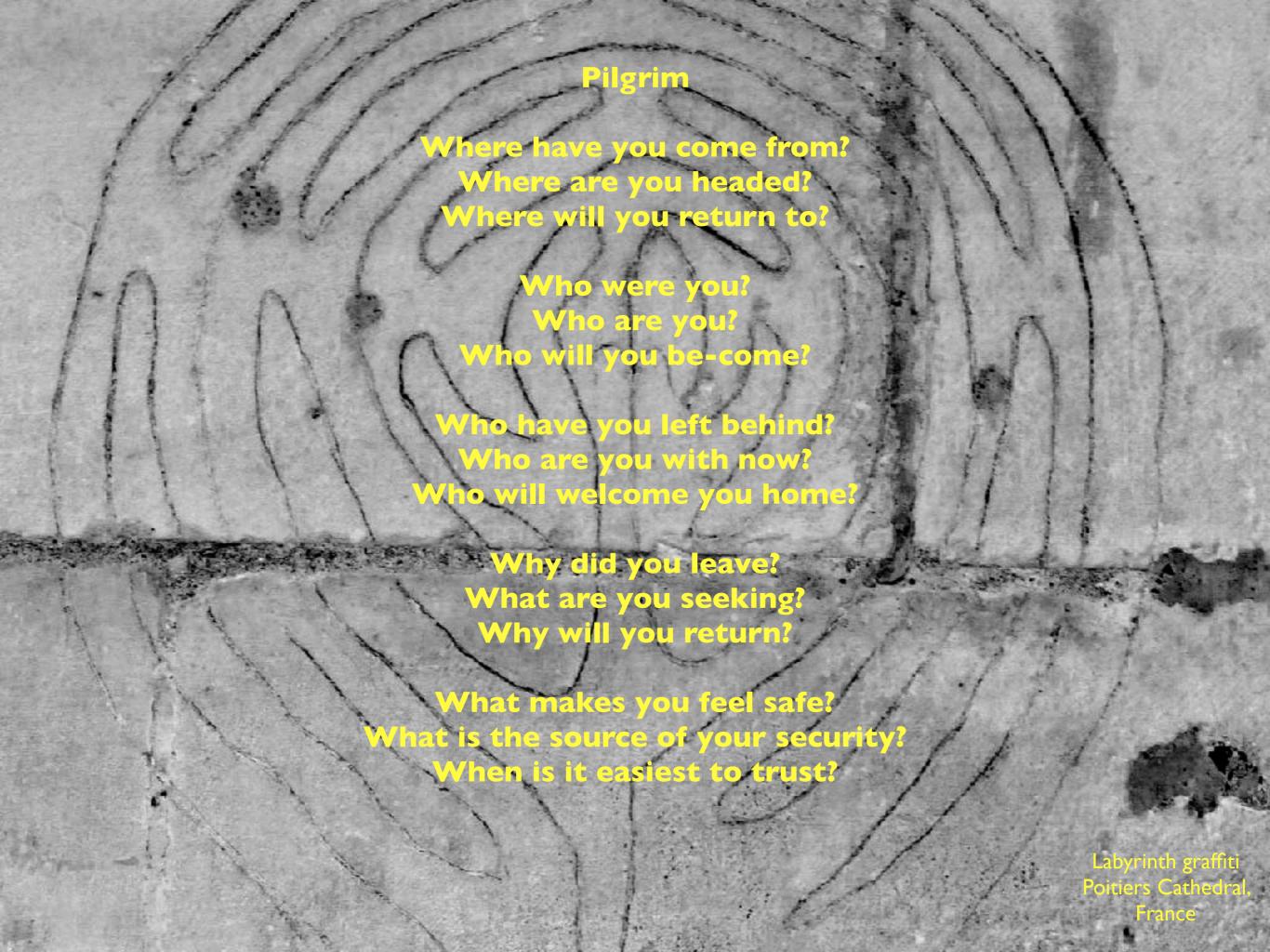
"Ithica"

Constantine P. Cavafy (1911)

Northwest Health Sciences Campus Bloc







Pilgrims, are you turning round in circle what are you looking for? he Beloved is here, why search in the desert? lf you look deep in your heart ou will find Him within yourself. ou have made the pilgrimage and trod the path to Mecca many times. ou rave about the holy place say you've visited God's garder ut where is your bunch of flowe tell stories about diving deep into the but where is your pearl? There is some merit n the suffering you have endured but what a pity you have not discovere the Mecca that is inside." Rumi

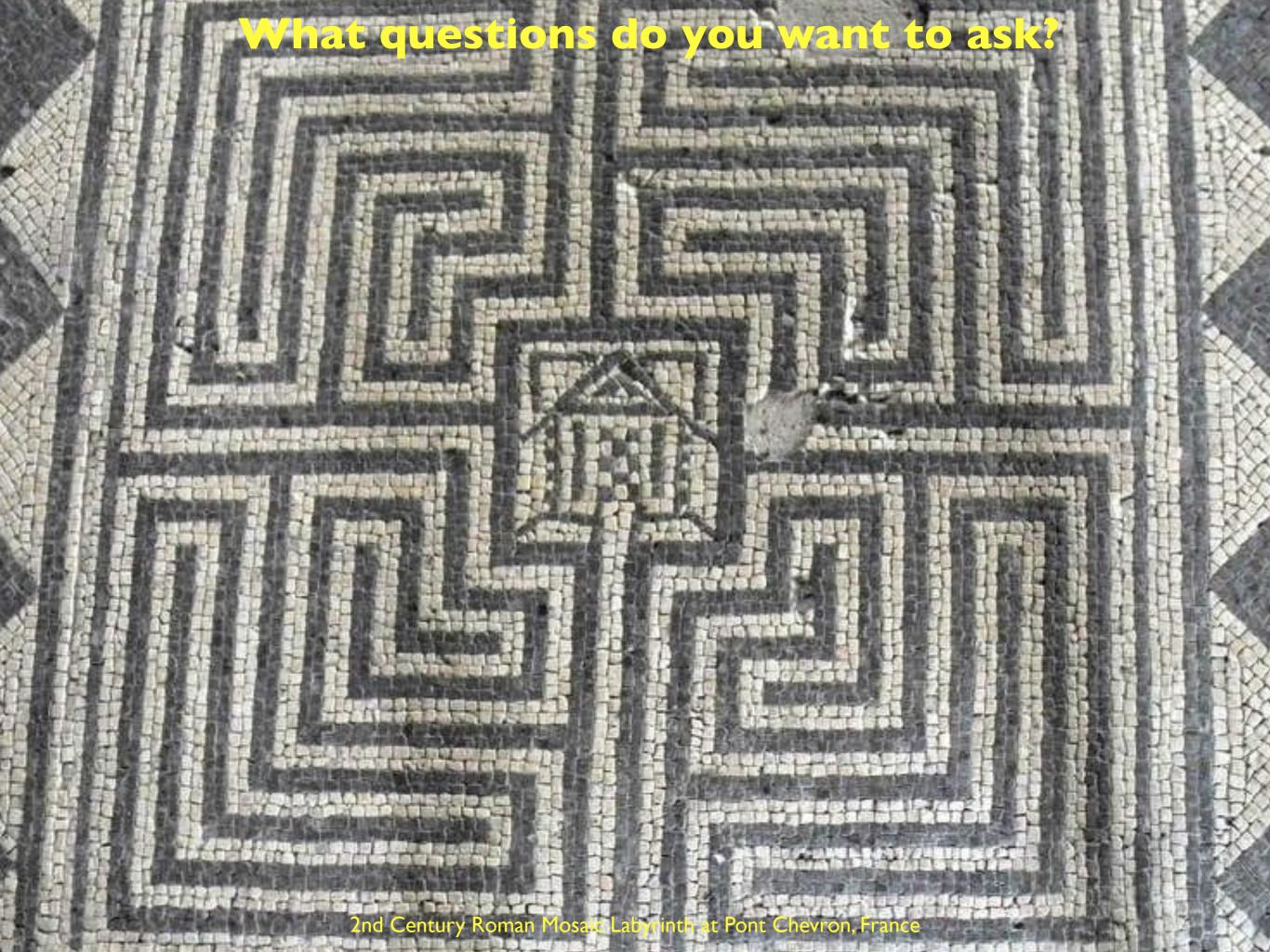


Using paper labyrinths for mini-pilgrimages

"Passover"
Alla Bozarth-Campbell

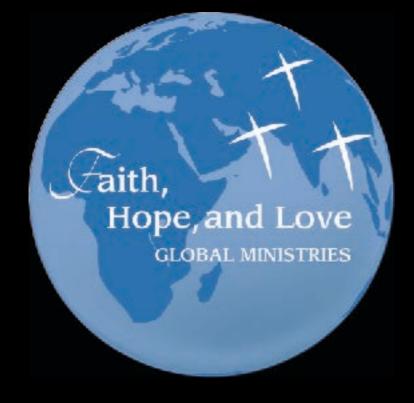








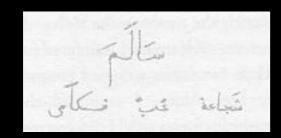




Feel free to contact Jill

jill.geoffrion@fhlglobal.org

www.jillgeoffrion.com www.fhlglobal.org jillgeoffrion.wordpress.com



Egyptian blessing for pilgrims (modified). See Cousineau. Art of Pilgrimage, xvii

