Circumambulating the Outside of the Chartres Cathedral

A prayer walk
designed by The Rev. Jill K H Geoffrion, Ph.D.
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Many religious traditions encourage the practice of circling a holy site before entering it.
Two guidelines (that may be hard to follow)
Take your time (we are not in a hurry; slow down!)
Stay together as a group. We are pilgrims in community.
More important: What is God communicating?

Less important: What is this?
Pilgrims have been coming here for centuries.

Pilgrimage markers in Chartres for the Camino to Compostela, Spain

21st century student pilgrims arrive on foot from Paris.

Pilgrims, St. Cheron Window, Chartres
Let us join them...

Scout pilgrims to Chartres

Group of pilgrims as seen from the cathedral tower
Our stations of prayer

Station 1

The parvis of the cathedral
Station 2: The pilgrimage shell by the west wall
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 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: Cielle Tewksbury
Station 3: North Side: Remembering the medieval hospital in the crypt
Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: keep watch, take heart!
Station 4: Le Portail Nord
Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. Those who seek God shall never go wanting. Nothing can trouble, nothing can frighten. God alone fills us.
Station 5: The Eastern side of the cathedral (in the Bishop’s Garden)
God, prepare me to be a sanctuary pure and holy, tried and true.

With thanksgiving I’ll be a living sanctuary for You.

(Start on D)
Station 6:
On the western side of the south doorway to the Bishop’s Garden
The support for our pilgrimage
The crypt
Caveau des évêques
Now I walk in beauty
Beauty is before me
Beauty is behind me
Above and below me.

From a Navaho prayer-poem
Station 7: The South Porch
Body Percussion:

Pilgrim, pilgrim, pilgrim

There is no way, There is no way, There is no way.

You find your way, Walking, walking, walking, walking.

Repeat 2x

Rancho de los Caberellos  Wickenberg, Arizona USA
Station 8: The third and fourth bays of the nave
Considering the labyrinth from the outside of the cathedral

Body Percussion:

Pilgrim, pilgrim, pilgrim

There is no way:
There is no way.
There is no way.

You find your way,
Walking, walking, walking.

Repeat 2x

Rancho de los Caberellos  Wickenberg, Arizona USA
Pilgrimage Ritual

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Egyptian blessing
for those leaving on pilgrimage
From Phil Cousineau, The Art of Pilgrimage.

Be Safe and Well.

Peace,
Love,
(Wisdom),
and
Courage!