



Archdeacon Deborah and Dr. Jouni Kraft on the Camino in May, 2022

*“But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,  
They shall mount up with wings like eagles,  
They shall run and not be weary,  
They shall walk and not faint.”  
Isaiah 40.31*

9<sup>th</sup> June, 2022

Columba: Abbot of Iona, Missionary  
“Pilgrim for Christ”

Dear friends in Christ,

Many of us have been following Archdeacon Deborah and Dr. Jouni Kraft’s sabbatical walking pilgrimage of the Camino de Santiago over the last several weeks. They left Canada in late April and had planned to complete the 800 km journey from St. Jean Pied de Port in France to Santiago de Compostela by the middle of June.

The Krafts averaged about 25 kms a day, accompanied on their travels by a friend Rev. Steven Scribner, a member of St. Paul’s in Thunder Bay, Daniel Klein, and Archdeacon Deborah’s brother Paul Nelson. Their daily Facebook posts and videos delighted us armchair pilgrims and we held them in our daily prayers, anticipating the next message from a much-loved pastor in our church.

On May 31<sup>st</sup>, after completing a 21 km walk Jouni had a severe stroke which has left him paralysed on his right side and unable to speak. He was transported to a hospital in Lugo, Spain where he remains to this day. Deborah and Jouni’s daughter, Laura, flew from Ottawa to be with her parents, arriving on Pentecost Sunday. She and Deborah spend their time playing music to Jouni, which he deeply appreciates.

St. Paul’s Thunder Bay held a Healing Service for Jouni on June 2<sup>nd</sup>. We have been praying for Jouni’s healing and recovery, and for courage, strength and an abiding sense of God’s presence and comfort for all of the Krafts.

The diocesan insurance company is working on getting Jouni home to Thunder Bay (hopefully within the next week) where he will be admitted to Thunder Bay Regional Hospital.

We would like to help Archdeacon Deborah and Jouni’s family with some of their out-of-pocket expenses and assist with family members who may wish to travel to Thunder Bay to be with their dad when he returns home. If you would like to contribute to this monetary gift, please send cheques (**memo line “Kraft gift”** or cash in person) to the Diocese of Algoma, 619 Wellington Street East, Sault Ste. Marie ON. P6A 2M6. We will prepare one cheque and send it to Archdeacon Deborah. As this is a personal gift no charitable tax receipts will be issued.

In a Facebook post on June 8<sup>th</sup>, Archdeacon Deborah wrote, “The power of God’s abiding love is holding Jouni and I together. When everything has been stripped away, love is what remains and is all that is important in our lives on earth.” She is grateful for the healthcare team in Spain, for travelling companions on the Camino, for our prayers and the strength they bring, and for the gift and blessing of faith.

We continue to hold Jouni in our daily prayers:

*“Heavenly Father, during his life on earth your Son Jesus Christ healed the sick and brought peace to those who were distressed and sorrowful. We commend to you loving care our brother Jouni. Grant him relief from pain and healing of body, mind and spirit; to those who are anxious about him, especially Deborah and her children and grandchildren, peace and comfort; and to those who tend him give wisdom, skill and compassion; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.”*

May God’s love be with you all,

**+Anne**

