

*Come Holy Spirit
Use me to Your glory*

Precious Pilgrim,

If our itinerary had been advertised in one of those myriad of unsolicited travel brochures that float through the mail, I think it would have read something like this: "A Must Go - Rocky Mountain Vacation."

Day One: You and your husband will fly to Eagle - Vail, Colorado. Upon arrival, your party will be charmingly met by none other than your very own handsome, middle son. He will painstakingly handle all of your baggage and drive you safely to his attractive house.

Then, you will be graciously greeted by his beautiful wife and their fabulously friendly, but well behaved Labrador puppy. You will then be shown around their lovely home, which you'll notice, has had some new furnishings added since your last visit.

Then you will be taken downstairs to the guest room, prepared especially for you. (Please note the fresh flowers everywhere and tasteful décor.)

After freshening up from your trip, you will rejoin your host and hostess. They will then escort you to one of the many extras of this trip - a baseball game, whose star player, of course, is none other than your handsome host. The field is strategically placed right next to the outdoor amphitheatre. We've scheduled the New York Philharmonic Orchestra to be

*playing while you are watching. A rare treat, you must admit.
(We think of everything!)*

On returning to your five star accommodations, there will be invigoratingly warm conversations. Then your dinner will be lovingly prepared by your chef-alias-hostess-alias-daughter-in-law (a many talented young lady.) She will have chosen the perfect meal for your first night's stay - "Turkey Tacos" - featuring her very own mango salsa and guacamole.

Because of your long day's journey and in preparation for your tomorrow's four-mile mountain hike, may we suggest an early hour to retire. Rest assuredly, you will have sweet dreams, for a complimentary humidifier, plus an aspirin, will be provided to help you adjust to the higher altitude. (We do pride ourselves on meeting your every need!)

Day Two: On awakening, after a blissful night's sleep, ascend to the kitchen. There you will find organic fresh roast coffee waiting to be brewed at the touch of a button. And when you're ready for breakfast, just help yourself to the vast selection of fresh fruit and cereals provided. Your host and hostess will be joining you momentarily. At which time you will be brilliantly briefed on the forthcoming 4-mile hike, which they will be leading.

It is one of their favorites, and we trust, will soon become one of yours. You will literally find yourselves walking out their front door, down their quiet, but friendly street, until it dead-ends.

At that point, your party will follow along the edge of a gloriously green golf course until you come to the trailhead. You will find a very well defined path, which will take you over the mountain to the charming ski village of Beaver Creek. Along the way, you will be allowed to gaze upon wildflowers galore. They should be at their peak and one of your guides not only has been certified in First Aid, for she is on the Ski Patrol during the winter months, but being a Rocky Mountain native, also knows most of the flora and fauna by name. Do not hesitate to ask questions as you go along. This first hike, as we previously mentioned, is only 4 miles, starting at 7,500 feet with a 1,500-foot elevation change. It should not be too strenuous and a perfect preparation for the next day's longer hike.

Once you have arrived at this scenic ski resort, you will want to stroll the streets and do a little window-shopping. Surprisingly, in such a small village, you will find wonderful galleries and shops (few bargains here, but good selections.)

A leisurely lunch will follow at one of the many world-renowned restaurants. We recommend dining outside, weather permitting, and you might want to try one of their unusual salads. All ingredients will be fresh and their mixtures are often quite eclectic. Be brave and try something new.

Do relax and enjoy every morsel of the meal, knowing you will not be having to walk back home, but rather, luxuriously

driven. Your host and hostess will have thoughtfully left a car in the village and will drive you, when you are ready, once again safely to your home away from home, their home.

In the afternoon you can relax and enjoy the beauty of this world. -- Take a nap. -- Sit in their garden. - Read a book. - Soak up the serenity. Feast on this glorious Rocky Mountain ambiance that surrounds you.

For dinner, your host and hostess will have made reservations at a wonderful restaurant in the neighboring village of Vail.

On the way, you will stop at Lionshead and take the gondola ride up to the top of the mountain. There you will experience a more panoramic view while enjoying a refreshing drink and live music.

Then on to dinner, which should be a gastronomic feast. You'll be allowed to stroll through this Alpine-like village of Vail both before and after dinner. It is truly a crown jewel of a resort.

Again, you will be in charge of the pace. Only when ready, will you be returned to your wonderful accommodations for another restful sleep - which you will need - for tomorrow will be the huge 9-mile hike - with a 2,500-foot elevation change, starting at 10,000 feet.

STOP! Sign me up immediately! I've read enough. This trip sounds fabulous! I want to do it all, and I'm sure my precious husband will too - but, but - if you don't mind, I might want to sleep in on that 9-mile hike day.

We'll see -

Pilgrim, please forgive. I just wanted to creatively thank my son and daughter-in-law for a fantastic trip. I've never tried to write a "promo" piece before. I don't think I'm any threat to the advertising world. Do you?

That is not true, however, of my husband Paul's mother. As a college English professor, she was truly a linguist. I'm told her command of our language was impressive. I'm sorry that she died before I met her, but I do love to hear some of her life stories.

One of her hobbies was entering contests for writing advertisement jingles. Over the years, she won cars, TV sets, cash, radios, bicycles, and as Paul says, "just a lot of stuff."

My grandmother, Gran, was an English teacher. Her age group was first graders. She lived in a wonderfully small town. I loved visiting and I loved being "Miss Mary's granddaughter," for she taught almost "literally" a whole generation how to read. She too loved words. The game of Scrabble, and crossword puzzles, and "Gran's Gleanings," which were placed throughout the house. These were pieces of paper on which she would write favorite scripture, or poetry or prose, which she was in the midst of memorizing. Amazing! Isn't that fun?

She too loved words, like Paul's mother. And do you know what, Pilgrim? I guess I do too! So just where am I going today with your letter?

I guess, I just want to quote to you two verses from John's gospel: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:1

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us."

John 1:14a

I love THE WORD.

Do you, Pilgrim?

I think it's now time to be silent and listen. Peace.

I am your sister in Christ,

Lucy

Come Lord Jesus, Come. You are the WORD made flesh.