

Thursday March 2

By Greater Milwaukee Synod Bishop Paul D Erickson

*"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us." Hebrews 12:1*

The first time I remember learning about accompaniment was when I was studying in Mexico. After I graduated from college and before I entered seminary, I decided to spend four months learning Spanish and living with a family in the city of Cuernavaca. Conchita and Cristobal were the parents of my temporary family, and as leaders of the Base Christian Community movement, they led Bible studies in various neighborhoods almost every night of the week. I went with them as often as I could, participating in the conversations as much as my slowly growing language capacity would allow.

I was humbled by their patience with me. They would smile and nod with encouragement as I struggled to express my thoughts. It was same patience with which they treated everyone, gently encouraging those who were new to reading and studying the Bible, and helping them to see how it connected with their daily lives.

Not far from their house there was a street sign that read, "Este camino no es de alta velocidad" (this road is not for high speeds).

I chuckled whenever I saw it. The road it described was filled with rocks and potholes making it difficult to walk quickly, much less to drive. It became for me, however, a metaphor for my time in Cuernavaca. I learned there that the road of faith is long, and the pace is slow and steady, as together we walk with humility, kindness, and patience.



Prayer: Slow us down, Lord, whenever we get to impatient with ourselves or with others, and help us to run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Amen.

Question: What helps you slow down when you get ahead of yourself?