



PRESS KIT



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WHAT IS WYD?

WYD is an encounter of young people from all around the world with the Pope amidst a religious, festive, and cultural atmosphere, which confirms the dynamism of the Catholic Church and testifies the significance of Jesus in our lives. "WYD is much more than an event. It is a time of deep and spiritual renewal; its fruits benefit the whole of society" (Benedict XVI). It is an extraordinary way of evangelization to strengthen youth ministry. WYD is held every three years and the last one was held in Panama in 2019.

HISTORY OF WYD

The WYD beginning

On Palm Sunday, 1985, pope John Paul II announced to the youth in Rome that World Youth Day would be created. In addition to the diocesan World Youth Day that occurs every year in all dioceses across the world, the pope calls youth from around the world to gather for international World Youth Day every two to three years.

These international gatherings have taken place in Rome (1985), Buenos Aires (1987), Compostela (1989), Czestochowa (1991), Denver (1993), Manila (1995), Paris (1997), Rome (2000), Toronto (2002), Cologne (2005), and Sydney in 2008, Madrid in 2011, Rio de Janeiro (2013), Krakow (2016), Panama City (2019).

The 38th edition of World Youth Day will be held in Lisbon 2023



The first two encounters, held in 1984 and 1985 respectively, were organized on the occasion of the extraordinary Jubilee for Redemption (1983-1984) and the International Year of Youth (1985); yet these were not considered official WYD encounters. However, these two events encouraged the Pope to carry out such a blessed initiative which continues today.

FROM PALM SUNDAY TO THE FEAST OF CHRIST THE KING

Palm Sunday was the starting point for the announcement of future WYDs, i.e. meetings during which young people can personally experience the mystery of the Redemption of Man and bring it to their contemporaries, friends, families and compatriots.

In 2021, Pope Francis has moved the event to the Sunday of the Feast of Christ the King, which marks the end of the liturgical year.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF WYD?

The initiator and first promoter of WYD was Saint John Paul II, who started this movement to enhance our personal encounter with Christ, which is life changing. WYD also promotes peace, unity, and fraternity among people and nations, commissioning the youth as ambassadors of this message. Finally, WYD also develops methods of new evangelization for the youth.

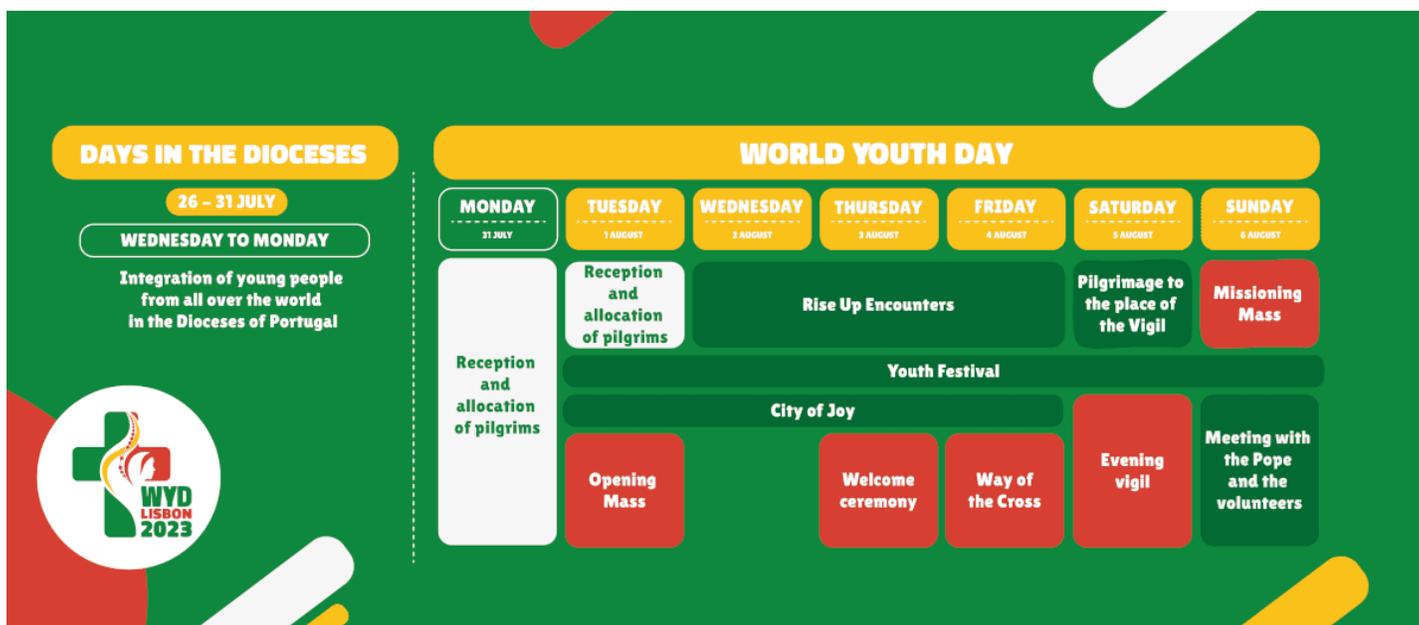
A PILGRIMAGE

Since World Youth Day was created, it has always been experienced in the spirit of a pilgrimage. Pilgrim derives from the latin word *“peregrinus”* which means *“traveler”*. This means to go on a trip, to leave your house, your habits, your ordinary life, your friends and family to go elsewhere. Youth who participate in this pilgrimage will need to get ready to live a rich moment in various teachings, strong moments of contemplation and meditation. Furthermore, participants will share their daily habits with other youth who do not have the same culture as they do. Everything will therefore be lived in the simple way, in many aspects: lodging and meals will be very simple, thus on many occasions young people will need to show patience and solidarity.

DURATION OF THE WORLD YOUTH DAY

WYD is a multi-day event with two main group of events: the first one is related to the *“Days in the Dioceses”*, during which the participants visit to different dioceses in the host country, and on this particular occasion, other Central European countries. During these days before WYD, pilgrims interact with local families (who host them) and strengthen their faith through activities with the communities in the parishes. The second group is the *“Main Events”*, referring to the activities planned in the host city: the opening mass, the welcoming of the pope, the way of the cross, the vigil with the Holy Father and the final mass. As well, there are other activities which young people can choose and live out the WYD experience: the Youth Festival, catechesis sessions, vocational center, concerts, and so on.

TYPICAL SCHEDULE



THE FIVE CENTRAL EVENTS



The Central Events will be held in the the Park Edward VII and the Tagus Park. Because World Youth Day is inspired by Mary, who rose and set out in haste to meet her cousin Elizabeth, because it will take place in Lisbon, known as the city of the "Seven Hills," and because we want this to be a time of encounter and grace for all who participate, Park Edward VII will be called "**Colina do Encontro**" and Tagus Park will be called "**Campo da Graça**".

Opening Mass

Opening Mass of the World Youth Day in Lisbon, presided by the Cardinal Patriarch of Lisbon, Manuel Clemente.

Welcome Ceremony

As it is the first moment of encounter between the young people and the Pope, this ceremony will be an event with a festive and meeting environment, keeping the dimension of prayer. It wants to show the young Church that sets out with the successor of Peter towards the construction of a more fraternal society.

Way of the Cross

Through a prayerful and immersive experience, we want to follow in the footsteps of Jesus in His passion.

Vigil

One of the events with the Pope in which there will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and prayer in community.

Missioning Mass

A celebration presided by the Holy Father to end WYD Lisbon 2023. Before the end of the Mass, the Pope will announce the city that will host the next edition of World Youth Day.

THE YOUTH FESTIVAL



WHAT?

It is a set of cultural, religious, and sporting events, carried out by WYD pilgrims, in a sharing of the Christian experience made by young people from all over the world, the result of their creativity and generosity! The Youth Festival wants to provide WYD pilgrims and the city of Lisbon with an experience of joy, youth, universality, and faith, showing that the Catholic Church is a lively and young church, capable of using today's languages and art forms without compromising the message that they want to transmit.

At the Youth Festival you can find events in the areas of Music, Cinema, Exhibitions, Theatre, Dance, Sports, Conferences and Religious Events (prayers, testimonies, adoration, meetings conducted by Movements, Associations and Congregations).

WHEN?

From the 1st to the 6th of August, throughout the day, excluding the times dedicated to Rise Up and Central Events.

WHERE?

Throughout the city of Lisbon, on stages and outdoor spaces, but also in indoor spaces (auditoriums, cinemas, theatres, museums, exhibitions spaces, churches), provided by public and private entities that generously want to associate themselves with WYD. We will release more information as soon as possible.

The city of Lisbon is preparing to become the world capital of Christian culture.



The young pilgrim, who is joyful, spontaneous, and free, comes to WYD first to encounter Jesus through the message of his Vicar, the Pope. Such encounter happens in the frame of an event that, due to its international character, unites the youth of the whole world, which inevitably leads to an encounter of cultures and traditions. The best way to focus the youth's energy and desire to manifest their talents and experiences is through this Festival. This is more than a mere chance for entertainment. It is a form of prayer and of praising the Lord and an important opportunity for Christian formation. Through this, the universality of our Church will be treasured and

following the mission Jesus entrusted her, the Church has brought the Gospel to all peoples and comes to unite all nations.

One highlight of the festival is the **"WYD Sports"**, which will be held on August 2nd, from 2pm to 8pm. The Youth Festival will feature 7-a-side football and beach volleyball tournaments, as well as inclusive sports! These tournaments will take place in Carcavelos Beach and Estádio Universitário Sports Centre.

Sports, understood as the practice of physical exercise, is considered the activity that brings people closer together and makes them equal. It promotes relationships and the exchange of experiences with others, leads to the discovery of individual and social limits and potential, and overcomes some barriers imposed by society.

CITY OF JOY

“Cidade da Alegria” (City of Joy) is the name of the space that will join the Vocational Fair and the Forgiveness Park at WYD Lisbon 2023:

- **Vocational Fair** – space where young pilgrims can encounter various movements, associations, communities, religious orders and projects of social nature
- **Reconciliation Park** – a space where pilgrims can make an encounter with the Merciful Christ through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

VOCATIONAL FAIR

WHAT?

The Vocations Fair was created so that young pilgrims have the opportunity to deepen their vocational discernment through workshops, stands, prayers, games, meetings, etc. The vocational dimension of the Faith will be transmitted. here, so that we all know that we are called by God.

The purpose of the Vocational Fair is to offer young people an information, guidance, support, dynamic and attractive space, so that they can be helped to discern their vocation in the context of the WYD of Lisbon. It wants to show the "kerygma of vocation", which is the proclamation of life as a journey, on which we are all pilgrims, as we are invited to pass through different stations to reach heaven. With this spirituality, we can understand this experience of pilgrimage "Lisbon 2023" as a reflection of our pilgrimage through life.

There will be a total number of 150 stands.

WHEN?

The Vocational Fair will be open from Tuesday to Friday (1-4 August 2023) from 9 am to 8 pm.

During this period, the stands of movements, associations, communities, religious orders and social projects will be open to pilgrims who will be able to enter to get to know them better. Talks and testimonies are included in two stands in the centre of the Vocational Fair and also moments of prayer in the chapel and in the gardens are contemplated.

THE 8 SPIRITUAL PILLARS

1. Christ as the center
2. The encounter with God and with others
3. Saying “yes” to God
4. Mary's hurry (“she got up and left in a hurry.” (Lk 1, 39))
5. Evangelization
6. The protagonism of young people
7. The silence
8. The experience of joy

These eight spiritual pillars were defined for the youth, as they discover the Vocational Fair.

RECONCILIATION PARK



Within Cidade da Alegria (City of joy), it is possible to enjoy an area for personal and community reconciliation: Reconciliation Park. Each youth is invited to visit the Park during the 4 days of its operation, where they can find the joy of feeling loved and forgiven.

Just as Mary got up to meet Isabel, Reconciliation Park is this place for meeting God, with oneself and with others. That's the beginning of a new heart, reconciled with its wounds.

In each confessional and in different languages, a priest will be available to welcome and listen to young pilgrims, inviting them to experience God's love and mercy through the sacrament of Reconciliation. The

opportunity for a radical restart of each one's history that only the force of forgiveness can eternalize!

The sacrament of reconciliation will be proposed throughout WYD also in other places of Lisbon.

RISE UP ENCOUNTERS

WHAT?

Rise Up is a new model of World Youth Day catechesis which challenges the youth to reflect about big themes pointed out at Pope Francis pontificate:

- Integral Ecology
- Social Friendship
- Mercy — Great message of God's love

WHEN?

These encounters will be held from Wednesday, August 2nd to Friday, August 4th.

In order to give young people an experience aligned with the synodal path lived in the Universal Church, a series of Preparatory Encounters is proposed to occur at a local level, in the months of April, May and June of 2023.

SCHEDULE OF POPE FRANCIS

Wednesday, 2 August

Rome – Lisbon

- 07:50 Departure by airplane from Rome/Fiumicino International Airport to Lisbon
- 10:00 Arrival at Figo Maduro Air Base in Lisbon
- 10:00 Official Welcome
- 10:45 Welcome Ceremony at the main entrance of “Palácio Nacional de Belém”
- 11:15 Courtesy Visit to the President of the Republic at “Palácio Nacional de Belém”
- 12:15 Meeting with the Authorities, Civil Society and the Diplomatic Corps in the Cultural Centre of Belém
- 16:45 Meeting with the Prime Minister at the Apostolic Nunciature
- 17:30 Vespers with Bishops, Priests, Deacons, Consecrated Persons, Seminarians and Pastoral Workers in “Mosteiro dos Jerónimos”

Thursday, 3 August

Lisbon – Cascais – Lisbon

- 09:00 Meeting with University Students at “Universidade Católica Portuguesa”
- 10:40 Meeting with Young People of Scholas Occurrentes in the Scholas Occurrentes Headquarters in Cascais
- 17:45 Welcome Ceremony in “Colina do Encontro” (Parque Eduardo VII)

Friday, 4 August

Lisbon

- 09:00 The Holy Father Celebrates the Sacrament of Reconciliation with some Young People at “City of Joy” (Jardim Vasco de Gama)
- 09:45 Meeting with Representatives of some Aid and Charity Centres at “Centro Paroquial de Serafina”
- 12:00 Lunch with Young People at the Apostolic Nunciature
- 18:00 Stations of the Cross with Young People in “Colina do Encontro” (Parque Eduardo VII)

Saturday, 5 August

Lisbon – Fatima – Lisbon / Loures

- 08:00 Departure by helicopter from Figo Maduro Air Base in Lisbon to Fatima
- 08:50 Arrival at Fatima Stadium
- 09:30 Recitation of the Holy Rosary with Sick Young People at the Chapel of Apparitions of the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima
- 11:00 Departure by helicopter from Fatima Stadium to Lisbon
- 11:50 Arrival at Figo Maduro Air Base in Lisbon
- 18:00 Private Meeting with Members of the Society of Jesus at “Colégio de S. João de Brito”
- 20:45 Vigil with Young People at “Campo da Graça” (Parque Tejo)

Sunday, 6 August

Lisbon / Loures – Oeiras – Rome

- 09:00 Holy Mass for World Youth Day at “Campo da Graça” (Parque Tejo)
- 16:30 Meeting with the Volunteers of WYD at “Passeio marítimo” in Algés
- 17:50 Farewell Ceremony at Figo Maduro Air Base in Lisbon
- 18:15 Departure by airplane from Figo Maduro Air Base in Lisbon to Rome
- 22:15 Arrival at Rome/Fiumicino International Airport

WYD THEMES

35TH WORLD YOUTH DAY, 2020

"Young man, I say to you, arise!" (Lk 7:14)

36TH WORLD YOUTH DAY, 2021

"Stand up. I appoint you as a witness of what you have seen." (cf. Acts 26:16)

37TH & 38TH WORLD YOUTH DAY, 2022-2023

"Mary arose and went with haste" (Lk 1:39)

OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR WYD 2023

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who arose and went with haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel:

Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord!
We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy.
We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and well doing is the best wellbeing.

Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as You once did.

Make it a time of testimony and sharing, fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait.

With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace.

Help us,
Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!

AMEN.

THE WYD SYMBOLS

Every World Youth Day, two symbols travel from one host country to another.

The **pilgrim cross** and the **Salus Poluli Romani icon** both make a pilgrimage to the host country, which prepares to welcome pilgrims from the four corners of the globe.

These symbols recall the aim of World Youth Day: to know Jesus more deeply through his Passion, and to surrender one's life to the protection of the Virgin Mary.

THE PILGRIM CROSS

The wooden Cross we know today as the WYD Cross comes from 1983, the beginning of the Holy Year of the Redemption (March 25, 1983 - Feast of the Annunciation to April 22, 1984).

It was young people who brought this Cross to St. Peter's Basilica, where it remained throughout the Jubilee Year, on display next to the tomb of the Apostle Peter, accompanying groups of pilgrims and visitors, but also present for the great celebrations.

Among the pilgrims were many young people, representing movements and communities that had responded to the Holy Father's appeal. They asked the Pope for the Cross to accompany them once the jubilee year was over, a request immediately accepted by John Paul II, who granted them the Cross.



IMPORTANT FACTS OF THE CROSS

- Up to this day, the cross has visited all continents, including countries at war and conflict.
- It was taken to New York City, where prayers were held on the site of the attacks of the World Trade Center.
- It was taken to Rwanda, a country that struggled from the consequences of a bloody civil war.
- It has also been to the UN headquarters, small schools, hospitals, and prisons.

THE ICON OF OUR LADY SALUS POPULI ROMANI

The icon of the Mother of God, known as Salus Populi Romani, which means Protectress of the Roman people, is an icon renowned for its graces.

In 590, her image was carried to save the people of Rome from an epidemic; the plague miraculously ceased shortly after Pope Gregory saw an angel in heaven sheathing its punishing sword. The icon is undoubtedly one of the most venerated in Italy.

FIRST APPEARANCE AT WYD

The icon was present at the vigil and final mass of World Youth Day in Rome in 2000. Three years later, Pope John Paul II entrusted a copy of the icon to travel around the world with the Cross. He had an important message for all young people, urging them to draw closer to Jesus through his mother Mary:

"Mary has been given to you to help you enter into a more authentic and personal relationship with Jesus. By her example, Mary teaches you to look at him with love, for he loved us first."

In this way, he passes on to young people his testament: the Latin phrase "Totus Tuus", or "all yours", which signifies the desire to give oneself entirely to Jesus through Mary.

Today, the original icon can be found in the Basilica of Santa Maria Maggiore, and Pope Francis usually visits it for a prayer before and after each of his trips.



PORTUGAL, COUNTRY ORGANIZING THE WYD



THINGS TO KNOW BEFORE GOING TO PORTUGAL :

Portugal has a population of 10.47 million, 80% of whom are Catholics. Lisbon is Portugal's capital and largest city, with an estimated population of 544,851. Portugal has 21 dioceses and 4,380 parishes. This will be the tenth WYD to be held in Europe.

The religious and monarchical influence of this Latin country is evident in its architecture. Steeped in Roman, Germanic and Berber occupation, Lisbon is also influenced by the European artistic styles of Romanesque, Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque. But it was above all the ambition of kings and the genius of navigators during the discoveries and colonization of new lands that set Portuguese architecture apart from the rest. These events made Portugal the richest country in Europe in the 16th century. Typical Portuguese architectural trends include the Manueline and Pombalin styles.

The economy of Portugal is ranked 34th in the World Economic Forum's Global Competitiveness Report for 2019. Portugal's central bank is the Banco de Portugal, which forms part of the European System of Central Banks, and the major stock exchange is the Euronext Lisbon, part of Euronext pan-European exchange.

In 2021, Portugal came in 4th place on the Global Peace Index (GPI), making it one of the most peaceful countries in the world, behind Iceland, New Zealand, and Denmark. Portugal is thus one of the safest countries in the world with little violence.

One of the interesting facts about Portugal is that the country is investing heavily in renewable energy. So much so, that in 2016 the entire country ran for almost five consecutive days entirely on renewable energy powered by wind, sun and water.

DAYS IN THE DIOCESE

WHAT?

“Days in the Dioceses” is a gathering that precedes the week of WYD Lisbon 2023 and consists of integrating young people from around the world into the parish communities of the country’s various dioceses. The “Days in the Dioceses” are a kind of preparation journey for the pilgrims and host community to experience the days around WYD.

For the visiting pilgrims, the “Days in the Dioceses” are an invitation to experience the richness of the Church in the host country, as well as to promote the encounter and exchange of an array of cultural and religious wealth.

For the week of the “Days in the Dioceses”, a programme anchored on five pillars is being prepared: **reception, discovery, mission, culture** and **sending forth**.

WHERE?

Since the host dioceses for WYD are Lisbon, Santarém and Setúbal, the other surrounding dioceses are going to be receiving pilgrims for the Days in the Diocese.

WHEN?

From the 26th to the 31st of July.



THE HOLY ROSARY

This prayer is inspired by the five fundamental principles of the Days in the Dioceses 2023. It is Rosary in which the pilgrims can meditate on a passage of the Bible through each principle.

According to the model presented, young pilgrims can pray together with the community or family that welcomes them during the Days in Dioceses.

MARY, AT THE HEART OF PORTUGAL



Our Lady of Fatima

Our Lady of Fatima is the invocation attributed to the Virgin Mary after the Marian apparitions received by three little shepherds in Fatima, a village in the central region of Portugal, on six occasions during 1917. These apparitions, with their message of prayer and the end of days, were initially viewed with suspicion by both civil and religious authorities. In 1930, the Catholic Church recognized the apparitions.

Our Lady of Fatima's message consists of several key points:

To do adoration, the consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to convert, the Eucharist, to practice mercy, to walk a pilgrimage to the Fatima Shrine as sign of walking with Mary to Christ, the reparation of our sins through the sacrament of Forgiveness and the prayer of the Rosary.

LE MESSAGE DU PAPE FRANÇOIS

In his letter directed to the youth for WYD 2022-2023, Pope Francis writes:

"And on this earth, at the beginning of the twentieth century, Mary wanted to pay a special visit, when, from Fatima, she launched to all generations the powerful and prodigious message of God's love that calls to conversion, to true freedom. To each and every one of you, I renew my warm invitation to take part in the great intercontinental pilgrimage of young people which will culminate in the WYD in Lisbon next August."



PATRONS OF WYD

As in previous WYD editions, saints and blessed are appointed as the “Official Patrons of World Youth Day”. Discover them here!



Saint Anthony of Padua

Born in Lisbon, in 1195. Is one of the Doctors of the Church and is known for his extensive knowledge of the Bible and his preaching of the Gospel. He is the patron saint of lost things, animals, oppressed people, etc. His feast day is on June 13th.



Blessed Maria Clara of the Child Jesus

Born on June 15, 1843. She was 14 years of age when she was orphaned and desired to consecrate her life to Jesus by entering the Capuchin Sisters. She is known as the “Sister of the poor”. Her feast day is on December 1st.



Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Born on April 6, 1901, in Turin. He exuded a vitality befitting his age, but his spiritual maturity was superior. The Rosary and his devotion to Our Lady strengthened his whole being. He died of fulminant poliomyelitis at 24 years. His feast day is on July 4th.



Blessed Carlo Acutis

Born on May 3rd, 1991. He put his aptitude for technology at service for Christian formation, such as the exposition of the Eucharistic miracles. He died of a fulminant leukemia. His feast day is on October 12th.



Saint John Paul II

He was born in Wadowice on May 18, 1920. During his pontificate, he visited 129 countries and, in 1984, he created the World Youth Day. He was Pope from 1978 to 2005. His feast day is on October 22nd.



Saint John Bosco

He was born in 1815. Because of his daily contact with orphans and abandoned youth, he founded the Oratory of St. Francis of Sales. It was the origin of the Congregation of Salesians. He is a symbol of education and formation of young people. His feast day : January 31st.



Saint Bartholomew of the Martyrs

Born in Lisbon in 1514. At the age of 14, he entered the Dominican Order. He participated in the third and last stage of the Council of Trent. He is recognized as “holy archbishop, father of the poor and the sick”. His feast day is on July 18th.



Saint John de Britto

Was born in Lisbon, in 164, from a noble family. He was ordained a priest at the age of 26 and began his missionary work. He achieved his life goal: to die a martyr in India, proclaiming the Gospel. Feast day: February 4th.



Blessed João Fernandes

Was born in Lisbon, in 1547. At 19 years old, he went to Brazil as a missionary with 39 other companions to evangelize. They all died as martyrs from an attack by a fleet of five pirate ships. Their feast day is on July 17th.



Saint Vincent

Was born in the 3rd century, into a Christian and important family within the Roman Empire. He was arrested and died in prison, victim of torture, from a persecution of Christians. He is a saint patron of Lisbon; his feast day is on January 22nd.



Blessed Chiara Badano

Was born in 1971, in Savona. She came to know the Focolare Movement, she also discovered she had a bone tumour in the final stage. From the treatments that followed, she began to live in great union with Jesus. Her feast day is on October 29th.



Blessed Marcel Callo

Was born in 1921, in Rennes, France. He worked as a printer's apprentice and joined the Young Christian Workers movement. He was drafted for compulsory service in Germany and died in the Mauthausen concentration camp. His feast day is on March 19th.



Blessed Joana of Portugal

Born on February 6th, 1452, she was daughter of King Alfonso V. At the age of 20, she rejected several royal suitors and determined to only be the "spouse" of Jesus Christ, she retired to the Convent. She practiced penance and assisted the less favoured. Feast day : May 12th

CARDINAL-PATRIARCH MANUEL DO NASCIMENTO CLEMENTE

Manuel José Macário do Nascimento Clemente, officially **Manuel III**, is a Portuguese prelate of the Catholic Church. He has been the Metropolitan Patriarch of Lisbon since 18 May 2013 and a cardinal since 14 February 2015. He has been a bishop since 1999 and was Bishop of Porto from 2007 to 2013.

The WYD is organized by the Patriarchate of Lisbon. For this reason, Monsignor Manuel Clemente, has created the Local Organization Committee (LOC) for WYD Lisbon 2023. This organization, formed by the auxiliary bishops of Lisbon Monsignor Joaquim Mendes and Monsignor Américo Aguiar, and by the executive secretary Duarte Ricciardi, is responsible for the preparation and organization of this major international event.



REGION

Capital of Lisbon

HEAD OFFICE

Patriarchate of Lisbon

CURRENCY

Euro

COUNTRY

Portugal

LANGUAGE

Portuguese

TERRITORIAL EXTENSION

3,735 km

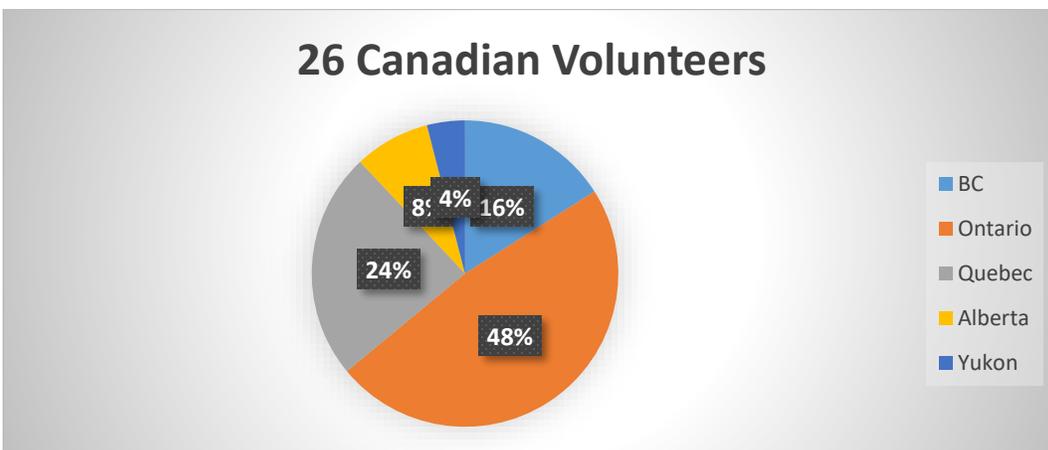
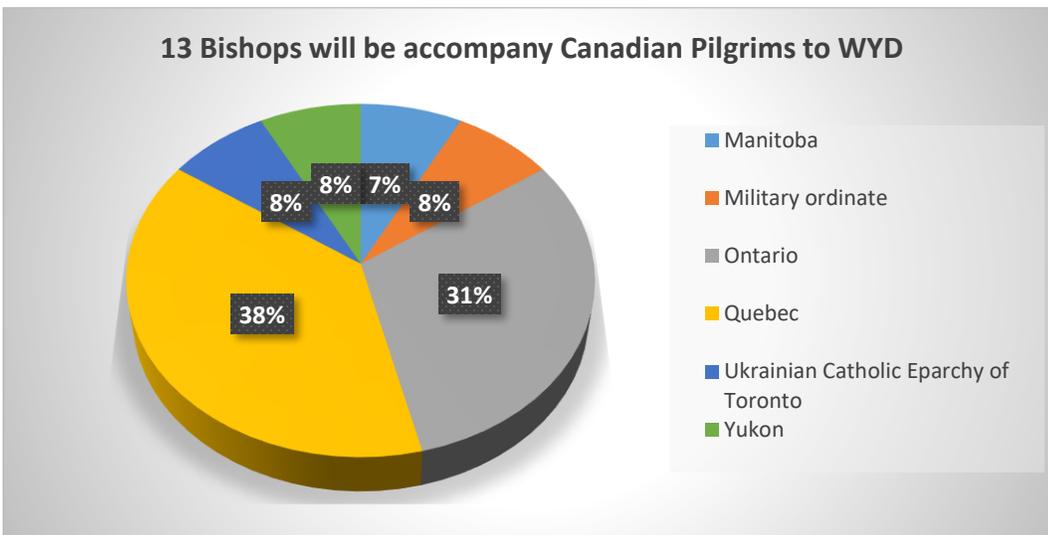
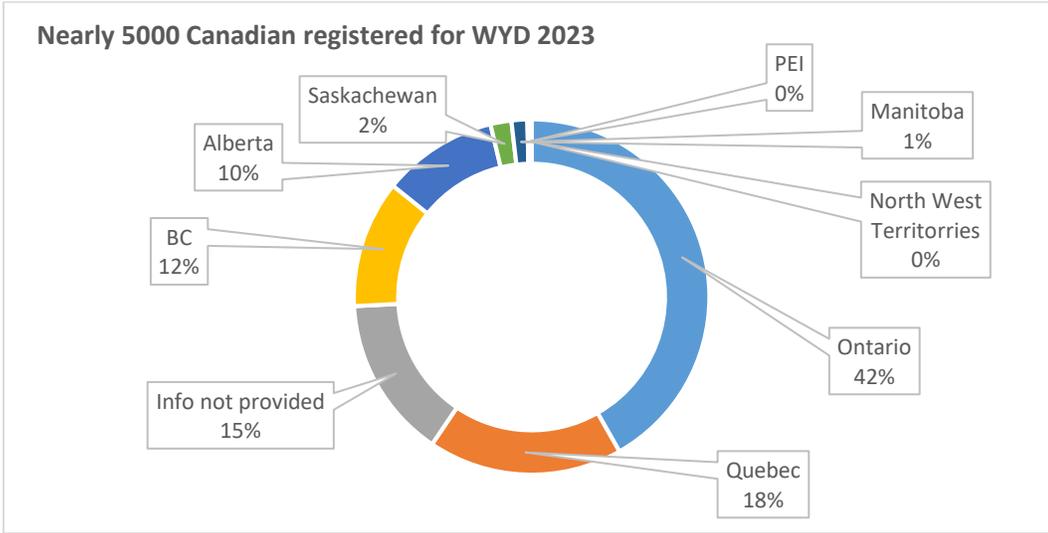
POPULATION

545,796 inhabitants

CONSTITUTED DIOCESE

Year 303

CANADIAN DELEGATION



Approximately 100 entries at the Festival of JOY



WYDCANADA

Follow our pilgrims
#wydcanada

