



IFCA
YOUTH COORDINATION

**Pilgrims TOGETHER
on the way towards RIO
23-28 July 2013**

*«Go and make disciples of all nations!»
(cfr. Mt 28, 19)*

CA Youth Meeting – Rio de Janeiro – 24 July

Basílica Nossa Senhora de Lourdes

**POPE FRANCIS Three points, then: joy, Cross, young people
From the Homily - Palm Sunday 2013**

(...) Yet all of us, all of you know very well that the King whom we follow and who accompanies us is very special: he is a King who loves even to the Cross and who teaches us to serve and to love. And you are not ashamed of his Cross! On the contrary, you embrace it, because you have understood that it is in giving ourselves, in giving ourselves, in emerging from ourselves that we have true joy and that, with his love, God conquered evil. You carry the pilgrim Cross through all the Continents, along the highways of the world! You carry it in response to Jesus' call: "Go, make disciples of all nations" (Mt 28: 19), which is the theme of World Youth Day this year. You carry it so as to tell everyone that on the Cross Jesus knocked down the wall of enmity that divides people and nations, and he brought reconciliation and peace. Dear friends, I too am setting out on a journey with you, starting today, in the footsteps of Blessed John Paul II and Benedict XVI. We are already close to the next stage of this great pilgrimage of the Cross. I look forward joyfully to next July in Rio de Janeiro! I will see you in that great city in Brazil! Prepare well – prepare spiritually above all – in your communities, so that our gathering in Rio may be a sign of faith for the whole world. Young people must say to the world: to follow Christ is good; to go with Christ is good; the message of Christ is good; emerging from ourselves, to the ends of the earth and of existence, to take Jesus there, is good! Three points, then: joy, Cross, young people.(...)

BIBLICAL REFLECTION

«Lord, all the nations will come and worship before you » (Ap 15,4)

According to Saint Matthew, the words of Jesus show clearly that this mission is universal. This is also stated in the Book of the Apocalypse by John, in the words taken from some psalms (cf. Ps 22,8; 86,9) and which are also found in the Prophet Isaiah: «I will come to gather together all nations and languages» (Is 65,18). The Apocalypse also had a vision of «a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people and tongue» (Ap 7,9). All this is an invitation for us to think big. Christianity and the Church do not have a sectarian spirit but have a 180° aperture on the world and its cultures. Universalism was always in the plan of God, «who wills everyone to be saved» (1Tim 2,4). Historically this was interpreted by Jesus, «who gave himself as ransom for all » (ib. 2,6), without exceptions. Even if our mission is restricted to one particular place, to one type of service or to a specific group of people, we should always keep this wider vision and breath this universality of the Church, in union with «fellow believers throughout the world » (1Pt 5,9).

MESSAGE OF BENEDICT XVI for WYD

http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/youth/index_en.htm

OFFICIAL PRAYER <http://www.rio2013.com/en/world-youth-day/official-prayer>

50° anniversary II ECUMENICAL VATICAN COUNCIL – Message to youth

(...) It is in the name of this God and of His Son, Jesus, that we exhort you to open your hearts to the dimensions of the world, to heed the appeal of your brothers, to place your youthful energies at their service. Fight against all egoism. Refuse to give free course to the instincts of violence and hatred which beget wars and all their train of miseries. Be generous, pure, respectful, and sincere, and build in enthusiasm a better world than your elders had. The Church looks to you with confidence and with love. (...)

WITH THE SAINTS

Blessed John Paul II Friend to the youth!

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Biography

Pope John Paul II, the Great, was the creator of the World Youth Day, in 1984. Considered as the Pope of the Youth, he worked in the dialogue with them, and he invited them to recognize their place and mission inside the Church. His pontificate was durable and he helped to guide the Christians, based on the inspirations of Vatican II. He fought until the last moment of his life sharing with us his happiness to give himself to Christ and to our Lady, the Virgin Mary. We invoke him as the friend of the youth!

Prayer

Grant me, through your intercession, the grace to win the hearts of true friends like you were to young people! Amen

SERVANT OF GOD, CARDINAL EDUARDO F. PIRONIO (1920 – 1998) President of Pontifical Council for the Laity when WYD began

(...) Most Holy Mary, help us to be faithful to our hour.
It is a "dramatic and magnificent hour", full of challenges and hopes.
Lay faithful are needed who live the sanctity of their Baptism
and the apostolic commitment of their Confirmation;
who live with daily simplicity the Easter Mystery;
who are afraid neither of the cross nor of the martyrdom.
Who only live the joy of sanctity
in the missionary communion of the Church. (...)

Prayer of Cardinal Pironio to the Virgin of Lujan
14 September 1997 II IFCA Assembly

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