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PRESS RELEASE

A stand to welcome the world's young people

CATHOLIC ACTION YOUNG MEMBERS TO THE XXXIV WYD IN PANAMA

Rome, 21 January 2019

The appointment is for Wednesday **23rd January** at the Feria Vocacional al Parco Omar Torrijos di Panama at 1.30 pm..While everybody is waiting for the arrival of Pope Francis to the XXXIV World Youth Day, at the **Catholic international Stand**, three representatives of the **Youth Coordination Group** - Jorge Arrieta (AC Argentina), Francisco Ramirez (ACG Jovenes Spagna) Emanuela Gitto (ACI – Settore Giovani and MSAC) welcome the CA young people present, together with the regional and diocesan delegations and all those willing to participate in this meeting.

«We want to participate with joy in the WYD - says **Emanuela Gitto** of the Italian Catholic Action, one of the three representatives of the Youth Coordination Group, and to give witness of the service we carry out daily in our countries, from **Spain to Romania**, from **Venezuela to Italy**, from **Argentina** up to **Panama**. During this trip we are accompanied by many **CA witnesses**, by **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati** who has been "our companion" in all WYDs, by Cardinal **Eduardo Pironio** who, taking up St. John Paul II's intuition, was instrumental in making the first WYD materialize. At the stand, our fellow participants will be able to get to know 12 of these witnesses better and also find useful material on IFCA and on the Youth Coordination Group. All CA young people as well as others, will be welcome. Even those who stay at home will be able to participate. We will live every moment live on Instagram, FB and Twitter. "

Meanwhile, on the social networks, a journey "**Jovenes de AC valientes con Maria**" in preparation for the celebration of the coming WYD has begun. This **journey is in 9 stages** and is inspired by 9 key words. A video, by the IFCA Youth Coordinators, Luisa Alfarano and Michele Tridente and a commentary by the Ecclesiastical Assistant Msgr. Eduardo Garcia, aimed at conveying the invitation by Pope Francis to be courageous young people on their way with the Virgin Mary, is also available.

"Valentia", courage, **Francisco Ramirez** explains, is: "A **distinctive mark** of the Christian and Mary taught us this with her confident " fiat ". So we too, **young Christians of the 21st century**, have the responsibility of being courageous to contribute towards the transformation of the world by living our faith in Jesus Christ with passion ".

Due to the geographical distance and the fact that it is being held at a time of the year when university examinations are held, a major part of the WYD in Panama will reach young Europeans through social networks. "Young Catholic Action members in Spain - adds Ramirez - are preparing for the WYD in Panama with great enthusiasm, and looking forward to live this event with great interest and hope and trust in the fact that, always with God's help", something important will happen ". Even those who fail to be physically there: "will participate in prayer, and will follow the WYD programme in their dioceses and through the animation parish teams. This will also be possible through **initiatives held simultaneously with the appointments in Panama** and, despite the distance, will help to keep us united, in communion and fraternity, with the young people of the universal Church ".

On this occasion, the young Argentinians will be the Catholic Action "hosts": "We need - says **Jorge Arrieta** - to be protagonists in a social reality which affects us strongly. A WYD in our continent not only strengthens our desire and our energy to face this reality but also gives us the certainty of knowing that Jesus accompanies every young person in his history and his crosses. WYD is a blessing for the new challenge which, as baptized, we have to face: that of being part of the **ecclesial renewal** which our Mother Church is going through and from which, we, young people, do not want to be excluded. This great celebration of the young Church in America, commits us to reaffirm our conviction to renew our promise, as Catholic Action members, to be faithful missionary disciples in all environments winning hearts and aspiring to holiness in our daily journey». In Panama, the Argentinian national pastoral care ministry is planning a meeting and a session of Eucharistic Adoration for all young Argentinians present.

In Panama, the Italian Catholic Action is represented by the National Assistant of the Youth Sector, Don Tony Drazza and two young people, Caterina Donato and Elena Cavalletti, who collaborate with Casa Italia, a point of reference for the Italian Episcopal Conference. Youth Pastoral Service.

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