



WYD2008 Pilgrimage Diocese of Kalamazoo

July 8 – 23, 2008

Days in the Diocese of Auckland, New Zealand
International Gathering in Sydney, Australia

World Youth Day: A Pilgrimage of Faith

The meaning and experience of pilgrimage lies at the heart of the WYD experience. The Christian practice of pilgrimage is as ancient as our roots in Scripture. The biblical story itself is one long pilgrimage and a model of pilgrimage for believers. We proceed from a mystery, God, and we are on our way towards a mystery, God. Christ himself accompanies us along our journey. Christ, who is the way, the truth and the light.

Pilgrims are not vagabonds, because they are aware of their destination. They do not travel alone, because they are members of a pilgrim people. They have no permanent home in this world: they carry only what is necessary for their journey.

A pilgrimage is a journey, but not in the form of a vacation or tourist visit. Pilgrimage is a “prayer of our feet.” The whole journey is a time of prayer and reflection, not simply a movement from place to place. Tourists go on vacation to see things. Pilgrims embark on a pilgrimage to receive something, such as a renewed spirit, greater devotion or a closer relationship with God. Tourists pass quickly through places, but places pass slowly through pilgrims, leaving them forever changed. Let all who travel to New Zealand and Australia for World Youth Day do so in the spirit of pilgrimage!

World Youth Day is a celebration that brings together Catholic youth and young adults, ages 16 – 35, from around the world to celebrate and learn about their Catholic faith and to build bridges of friendship and hope between continents, peoples and cultures. It is a **pilgrimage of faith**, and an opportunity to rediscover our baptismal calling and the centrality of the sacraments of the Eucharist and Reconciliation, and so discover a new apostolic zeal to witness more fully the Gospel in the modern world. Initiated by Pope John Paul II, World Youth Day has been held every year since 1986 when the first event was held in Rome. Every two to three years, a massive international gathering celebrates WYD in a different 'host city.' The international World Youth Days are marked by a week-long series of events, attended by the Pope and hundreds of thousands of youth from all over the world. Sydney, Australia will host the 10th international WYD and XXIII WYD overall July 15-20, 2008. World Youth Day is the largest youth event in the world.

The WYD08 theme, received from The Holy Father is: *'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.'* Acts 1:8

*The Office of Evangelization, Catechesis and Initiation of the Diocese of Kalamazoo is sponsoring a pilgrimage July 8 – 23, 2008 for those who wish to participate in World Youth Day 2008. This pilgrimage is intended for those 16 – 35 and their chaperones. Minors must be 16 by July 1, 2008. Due to visa restrictions it is strongly recommended that minors travel with a parent/legal guardian. If chaperone is not a parent/legal guardian please contact Lisa Irwin for legal forms needed for minor to travel with another adult. **Chaperones must meet all diocesan child protection/safe environment requirements.***