

What is World Youth Day?



World Youth Day (WYD) is the largest youth event in the world! Organized by the Catholic Church, it brings together young adults from around the globe and is a strong reminder of the strength and confidence that young people bring to the church.

It involves a week-long spiritual journey where pilgrims from all over the world unite to share their faith. The week includes prayer, song, concerts, drama, sharing, liturgy, catechesis, and an unforgettable vigil and closing Mass with the Holy Father.

In 1984, Pope John Paul II invited young people from all over the world to participate in a pilgrimage at the very first World Youth Day. Since then it has been held in Argentina ('87), Spain ('89), Poland ('91), U.S. ('93), Philippines ('95), France ('97), Italy ('00), Canada ('02), Germany ('05) and Australia ('08).

WYD is an invitation from the pope to the youth of the world to celebrate their faith around a particular theme. But everyone is welcome to attend!