

What are **YOU** doing for **World Youth Day In Your Parish?** **Oct 25, 2009**

**Did you know that we
are called to celebrate
our youth on a special
Sunday each year?**



**Celebrate your youth
on the 30th Sunday of
Ordinary Time**

How WYD started

At the end of the Holy Year in 1984, Pope John Paul II invited young people from the movements and associations throughout the world to be present in Rome for the concluding ceremony. The following year, 1985, the Holy Father again invited young people to Rome on Palm Sunday for the observance of the United Nations International Year of Youth. Thus initiate the celebrations of World Youth Day (WYD).

The Holy Father's meetings with young people and special letters to them have continued beyond the U.N. observance and have become a yearly celebration. Since 1985, the pope has issued a letter addressed to the young people of the world, and every two to three years he has invited the young people of the world to meet with him at one international location for catechesis, fellowship, worship, and renewal. These meetings, now known as the international WYDs, have taken place in Rome ('85), Buenos Aires ('87), Santiago de Compostela ('89), Czestochowa ('91), Denver ('93), Manila ('95), Paris ('97), Rome ('00), Toronto ('02), and Cologne, Germany ('05), and Sydney, Australia ('08). The next international WYD will take place in August of 2011 in Madrid, Spain.

WYD in Parishes

Although the international WYD gatherings occur about every two to three years, the holy father invites us to celebrate WYD in our parishes and dioceses *each and every year*. *In the United States, WYD in Parishes is celebrated on the 30th Sunday of Ordinary Time* rather than on Palm Sunday, the date on which it is celebrated in Rome and most of the world. In 1988, the Administrative Committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops chose to move the national WYD celebration in the US to the 30th Sunday of OT, allowing more parishes and schools to participate and not conflict with Palm Sunday and preparations for the Triduum and Easter Sunday. This date, which typically falls on or near the last weekend of October, was chosen because of the appropriateness of the lectionary readings, and it does not conflict with other national celebrations/observances. At times, this national celebration for WYD does fall on the same Sunday as Mission Sunday. When this happens, we invite parishes and schools to collaborate in the celebration of these two important events.

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WYD in *YOUR* Parish

WYD is a day to celebrate youth (younger and older teens), in all of their diversity and goodness, and to encourage these young people to lead the church both now and into the future. Parishes are invited to bless their young people, involve them in all aspects of the Mass, affirm their leadership, and invite them to use their gifts in service to the church and the world. This is also an excellent opportunity to advocate for youth and integrate them into the life of the parish. Here are some ideas...



- Establish a committee to brainstorm and plan ways to celebrate WYD in your parish.
- Involve youth in many of the liturgical ministries that Sunday.
- Add specific petitions for young people to the weekend Masses.
- Provide a blessing or “praying over” of the young people.
- Consider celebrating youth at *all* of the parish Masses that weekend in order to involve the entire parish community rather than celebrating youth at a single Mass.
- USA Weekend sponsors “National Make A Difference Day” on Saturday, Oct 24, 2009. Consider incorporating the two events into a weekend of service and celebration. See <http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday>.

Parishes are free to transfer the WYD parish celebration to an alternate weekend if necessary.

Sunday Readings for the 2009 WYD in Parishes

October 25, 2009
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Lectionary #149

- ✦ 1st Reading—Jeremiah 31:7-9
- ✦ Psalm Response—Psalm 126:1-6
- ✦ 2nd Reading—Hebrews 5:1-6
- ✦ Gospel—Mark 10:46-52

RECOMMENDED WYD RESOURCES

The National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry will post resources for WYD in Parishes this fall. Visit www.nfcym.org.

Read Pope Benedict XVI's 2009 Message to Young People at <http://www.nfcym.org/catholicism/popemessage.htm>.

Veteran parish coordinators of youth ministry throughout the archdiocese are happy share their ideas for celebrating WYD in Parishes.

Questions?

Visit <http://ym.archdpdx.org> or contact the Archdiocesan Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry at 503-233-8395 or ym@archdpdx.org.