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宗座信徒、家庭和生命部 在地區教會慶祝 世界青年日的 牧靈指引

1. 世界青年日

設立世界青年日無疑是聖若望保祿二世極具先知性的洞見，他對這決定的目的解釋如下：「我們必須讓所有青年都感受到教會對他們的關懷：所以，要讓整個教會，連同伯多祿繼承人，在全球的層面日益關注青年，介入他們所掛慮和關心的事、他們的渴求和期望，好能把作為事物確定無誤的基礎、作為真理和作為愛的基督，通傳給青年，以回應他們的期望……。」¹

教宗本篤十六世承接了他前任者所作的見證，而且他在不同場合中強調，這些活動是天主賜予教會的恩典，並把它們形容為「抵抗信仰疲憊的良藥」、「重振基督徒朝氣的一種新形式」、「生活化的新福傳。」²

1 若望保祿二世，《向樞機團及羅馬教廷成員聖誕致辭》：《教導》（Insegnamenti），VIII，1559-1560。

2 參閱：本篤十六世，《向樞機、總主教、主教及梵蒂岡各機構主管聖誕致辭》：《教導》（Insegnamenti）VII，2（2011），951-

教宗方濟各同樣認為，世界青年日為整個教會，尤其為年輕一代，形成一股非凡的傳教動力。在他被選任為教宗的數個月以後，教宗方濟各就以2013年7月於里約熱內盧舉行的世界青年日作為他任期的開始。他在活動尾聲時說，世界青年日「是青年朝聖旅程的新階段，他們帶著基督的十字架跨越各個大洲來朝聖。」他並解釋：「我們絕不能忘記，歷屆的世界青年日並非『煙火秀』，也不是僅為表達一時的熱忱，而是由教宗若望保祿二世於1985年開創的一個漫長旅程的個別階段。」³教宗方濟各隨即澄清了一個重點：「讓我們經常謹記：青年不是在跟隨教宗，而是在跟隨耶穌基督，背負著祂的十字架。教宗是指引著他們，在這個信德和望德的旅程中陪伴著他們。」⁴

眾所周知，每屆的國際性慶典，一般是每三年一次在不同的國家舉行，而教宗每次都會親臨參與。另一方面，各地區教會每年也會負責籌劃世界青年日的常規慶典。

2. 在各地區教會慶祝世界青年日

在每個地區教會慶祝的世界青年日，不僅為住在該地區的青年有重大意義和價值，為整個當地教會團體也

955。

3 教宗方濟各，《三鐘經》：《教導》（Insegnamenti）I，2（2013），155。

4 同上。

是如此。

有些青年因學業、工作或經濟困難而未能參與國際性的世界青年日，所以地區教會要為他們提供機會去親身體驗這「信仰的慶典」，即使只屬於當地層次的，也能夠像那些曾深深觸動世界每個角落許多青年生命的國際性活動那樣，成為一個見證、共融和祈禱的強而有力的時機。

同時，在慶祝當地的世界青年日，對每個地區教會而言，都是別具意義的。它有助提升和陶成整個教會團體的意識，包括平信徒、司鐸、度獻身生活者、家庭、成人和長者，讓他們意識到那個要給年輕人傳遞信仰的使命。以「青年、信德和聖召辨明」為主題的2018年世界主教代表會議提醒我們：整個普世教會、地區教會及每位教會成員，都必須察覺到自己對年輕人應負的責任，並樂意接受挑戰，面對年青人的問題、渴望和困難。所以，在當地慶祝世界青年日是非常有用的，它燃起教會的熱火，意識到要與青年同行、接納他們和耐心地聆聽他們是如何的迫切，同時要熱誠和充滿活力地向他們宣講天主的聖言。⁵

本部在其職權的範圍內，為主教團、東方禮教會主教代

5 參閱：《青年、信德與聖召辨明世界主教會議總結文件》，4。此後，以《總結文件》稱之。

表會議及宗主教區的世界主教代表會議、所有教區、教會運動及善會，最後，也為世界各地的青年，就慶祝當地的世界青年日⁶，制定了一些牧靈指引，使大家能充分地體驗到它是「為青年」和「與青年同行」的慶典。

這些牧靈指引旨在鼓勵各地區教會日益重視教區性世界青年日的慶祝，視之為發揮創意、計劃和推行種種倡議的大好時機，並展示教會把服務青年的使命「看作是牧靈上的當前要務，具有劃時代的意義，並願意為此投資時間、精力和資源。」⁷ 我們需要確保年輕的一代能察覺自己是受到教會關注，並且是牧靈關懷的重心。事實上，年輕人渴望投入參與和被賞識，他們要感受到自己是教會生活和傳教使命的共同倡導者。⁸

以下的指引，主要是考慮名正言順地代表著地方教會的各個教區。然而，這些指引明顯地可按世界各地教會所處的不同環境作出適應。例如，有些教區／東方禮教區的規模較小，可供運用的人力和物力資源也較少。在這些具體的情況下，或為牧靈工作之需要，可考慮鄰近或

6 宗座平信徒、家庭和生命部會「表達出教會對青年的特殊關注，在當今世界種種挑戰中促進他們的能動性。本部支持教宗有關青年事工的倡議，並致力為主教會、為國際性的青年運動和善會服務，促進他們的合作及在國際層面組織會議。其中一個重要範疇是準備世界青年日的籌備活動」（章程，條款8）。

7 《總結文件》，119。

8 參閱：同上。

地域相接的一些教會管轄的地區域或信友羣體聯合地慶祝青年日，或在地區（regional）的層次或全國層次來慶祝。

3. 在基督君王節慶祝當地的世界青年日

在2020年11月22日基督君王節大禮彌撒結束時，教宗方濟各希望重新啟動世界青年日在地區教會裡的慶典，他並宣布，自2021年起，這個傳統上在聖枝主日舉行的慶典，將改在基督君王節主日舉行。⁹

我們記得，教宗聖若望保祿二世在救贖聖年（1984年）召集青年到來慶祝禧年。他在1984年的基督君王節大禮彌撒中，號召年輕人在國際青年年（1985年）到羅馬來相聚，而這就標示著世界青年日這個漫長旅程的開始。教宗聖若望保祿二世說：「在這慶日[……]教會宣揚基督的國已臨現，但它的奧蹟仍在增長，邁向圓滿實現。年輕人，你們是天國的動力不可取代的傳送者，同時也是教會和世界的希望。這就是世界青年日的緣起：在基督君王日，世界各地的青年應邀「在聖週的開始來到羅馬，在週六及聖枝主日與教宗會晤。」¹⁰

⁹ 參閱：教宗方濟各，《吾主耶穌基督——普世君王節日彌撒聖祭講道》，2020年11月22日。當中建議在基督君王節那天慶祝世界青年日，包括那些禮儀習俗上沒有包含這節日的教會。然而，也可選擇在其他日子舉行。教區首長有權另定日子舉行這慶典。

¹⁰ 若望保祿二世，《三鐘經》：《教導》（Insegnamenti）VII，2，

事實上，聖枝主日和基督君王節之間的關聯是顯而易見的。在聖枝主日的慶典中，我們紀念耶穌榮進耶路撒冷，祂是「溫和地騎在一匹驢上」的君王（瑪廿一5），被群眾歡呼擁戴為默西亞：「賀三納於達味之子！因上主之名而來的，當受讚頌！」（瑪廿一9）。聖史路加就更明確地在群眾歡呼「因上主之名而來的」之處加入「君王」的名號，以此強調默西亞也是君王，而祂進入耶路撒冷，在某種程度上就是一種君王的登基大典：「因上主之名而來的君王，應受讚頌！」（路十九38）

基督作為君王的身份為路加是如此重要，以致這事實從耶穌基督現世生命一開始就已顯露出來，直到最後一刻，而且一直伴隨著祂整個公開生活。在聖母領報時，天使向瑪利亞預告，她所懷孕的兒子將從天主那裡領受「祂祖先達味的御座…，祂要為王統治雅各伯家，直到永遠；祂的王權沒有終結」（路一32~33）。在祂被釘十字架上那個戲劇性的時刻，其他聖史只提及耶穌身旁兩個一同被釘的人所受的侮辱，但路加卻襯托出「善盜」這個動人的角色，他從十字架的刑台上向耶穌祈求說：「耶穌，當祢來為王時，請祢紀念我！」（路廿三42）。耶穌也以接納和寬恕的言詞回應了他的祈禱，明確地表現出祂就是來施行拯救的君王：「今天你就要與

（1984），1298。

我一同在樂園裡。」（路廿三43）

所以，這個向青年宣布的重要訊息，必須放在基督君王節那天所慶祝的教區性／東方禮教區性的世界青年日的中心：青年人，你們要迎接基督！要接納祂為你們生命的君王！祂是來拯救人的君王！沒有祂，就沒有真正的和平，沒有真正的內在和好，也沒有與他人真正的和好！沒有祂的國度，社會會失去其人性的面貌。沒有基督的國度，兄弟情誼以及對受苦者真正的親臨陪伴都會完全消逝。

教宗方濟各指出基督君王節和聖枝主日兩個禮儀慶典的核心「始終是耶穌基督——人類救贖者的奧蹟……。」¹¹ 所以，訊息的核心依然是：人的崇高價值源於愛，人能「愛到底」，以致把自己交付出來。

因此，這是給每一個教區／東方禮教區的邀請，呼籲他們在基督君王節那天慶祝世界青年日。教宗切望在這一天，普世教會能把青年置於牧靈關懷的中心，為他們祈禱，讓青年成為倡導者，促進他們彼此間的交流等等。最理想是把（教區性／東方禮教區性，地區性或全國性的）活動安排在基督君王節那天舉行。然而，由於種種原因，必要時活動也可在其他日子舉行。

¹¹ 教宗方濟各，《吾主耶穌基督——普世君王節日彌撒聖祭講道》，2020年11月22日，見前引。

這個慶典必須被列入一個更寬廣的牧靈歷程之中，使世界青年日僅成為這歷程的其中一個階段。¹² 因此教宗建議「青年牧靈關懷只能是共議性的，也就是說，應以『同行』的形式來體現」。¹³ 教宗所言並非出於偶然。

4. 舉辦世界青年日的幾個關鍵

在以「青年、信德與聖召辨明」為主題的世界主教代表會議期間，一些與會神長曾就世界青年日發言。在這方面，《總結文件》提到「聖若望保祿二世以其先知性的直覺所創立的世界青年日，在第三個千年依然對青年人有所啟發。這項活動，連同各種全國性和教區性的聚會，對許多青年人的生活發揮著重要的作用。原因就是，這些聚會提供了對信仰和共融精神的活潑體驗，有助青年面對人生重大的挑戰，並學習以負責任的態度，在社會和教會團體扮演他們的角色。」¹⁴

《總結文件》強調這些聚會「可能是個別團體推行的一般牧靈活動，但在這些活動中，必須協助青年人將已領受的福音在內心扎根，並踐行在各種人生抉擇之中」。¹⁵ 文件又斷言：「它們提供了有如朝聖之旅的同行機會，讓青年人與所有人經驗友愛、喜樂地分享信

¹² 《總結文件》，142。

¹³ 教宗方濟各，《生活的基督》世界主教會議後宗座勸諭，206。

¹⁴ 《總結文件》，16。

¹⁵ 同上。

仰、加強對教會的歸屬感。」¹⁶

讓我們一同探討其中一些應為每個世界青年日——在本地層面亦然——都成為重點，¹⁷ 並具有清晰綱領性價值的「關鍵」。

a) 要讓青年日成為「信仰的慶典」

世界青年日慶典讓青年活潑而喜樂地體驗信仰與共融精神，並讓他們有一個園地去體驗天主美麗的面容。¹⁸ 信仰生活的核心是在於使人與耶穌基督相遇，因此，與基督相遇的邀請，最好能在每個世界青年日回響著，讓每位青年與基督作個人的對話。「我們共聚一堂，一同讚美上主，歌唱，聆聽天主的聖言，在靜默中崇拜，那將會是信仰的慶典：所有這一切都是世界青年日的高峰。」¹⁹

由此看來，國際性的世界青年日的各項活動程序（宣16同上，142。

17 更多有關世界青年日對青年屬靈旅程的貢獻，參閱：本篤十六世，《向樞機、總主教、主教及梵蒂岡各機構主管聖誕致辭》，2011年12月22日，參閱：前引；教宗方濟各，公開接見活動，2013年9月4日。

18 參閱：教宗方濟各，《吾主耶穌基督——普世君王節日彌撒聖祭講道》，2020年11月22日。當中建議在基督君王節那天慶祝世界青年日，包括那些禮儀習俗上沒有包含這節日的教會。然而，也可選擇在其他日子舉行。教區首長有權另定日子舉行這慶典。

19 教宗方濟各，公開接見活動：《教導》（Insegnamenti）I，2（2013），210。

講、培育、見證、聖事、藝術等範疇）能啟發各地，使之按其實；使之有創意地加以適應。但應特別留意，在朝拜聖體那最卓越的信德行動時，也要留意悔罪禮儀，那是與天主慈悲相遇的特殊場合。

此外，應謹記青年人在每個世界青年日中天性具有的熱誠，以及他們投入與自己有關的事物和活出自己的信仰時那份熱誠，這一切都能激發和重振全體天主子民的信德。青年一旦蒙福音召喚和被邀請去體驗上主，他們往往能勇敢地為自己的信仰作見證。這經驗經常讓世界青年日成為一項既帶來驚喜而又獨特的活動。

b) 要讓青年日成為一個「教會的經驗」

重要的是，教區／東方禮教區舉辦的世界青年日要成為一個讓青年人體驗教會共融的機會，並讓他們更意識到自己是構成完整的教會所需要的一分子。要讓青年介入，首要是要聆聽他們。在籌備教區／東方禮教區的青年日時，我們需要尋找適當的時機和模式：如教區／東方禮教區及跨教區／東方禮教區議會、司鐸議會、地方主教會議等……，讓人們在現存的教會共融架構內聽到青年的聲音。我們不要忘記，他們就是教會年輕的面容！

在一個教會管轄的地區或信友羣體，除了青年事工以

外，也應讓其具備的各類神恩得以發揮出來。教區／東方禮教區在組織世青日慶典時必須和諧協調，讓不同層次的人投入這個要求共議的議題，就如教宗在《生活的基督》宗座勸諭中所期望的：「在這共議精神的推動下，我們便可逐漸建立全體參與和共負責任的教會，懂得珍視教會內豐富的多元性，並以感恩之情也接納平信徒的貢獻，包括青年和女性、男女獻身生活者和各群體、善會和教會運動的貢獻。我們不應撇除任何人或容許任何人束手旁觀。」²⁰ 這樣，我們便能聚集及協調地區教會內所有充滿活力的泉源，也能喚醒那些「沉睡者」。

按這背景，當地主教的臨在和他樂於與青年相處，就是向他們表達他的關愛與親近的一個很好的標記。許多時候，教區／東方禮教區為不同的青年慶祝世界青年日，造就他們與自己的牧者會面和交談的機會。教宗方濟各鼓勵主教們採納這種親近的牧靈作風，我們「應重視運用親切的語言，運用那體現慷慨無私、建立關係和具體實在的愛的語言，讓這樣的語言觸動心靈，接觸生命，喚醒希望和渴望。」²¹

c) 要讓青年日成為一個「傳教經驗」

²⁰ 《生活的基督》，206。

²¹ 《生活的基督》，211。

國際性的世界青年日是讓青年獲得傳教經驗的大好時機，教區／東方禮教區性的青年日也必須如此。就如教宗方濟各所言：「青年牧靈關懷總是履行傳教使命的牧靈關懷。」²²

為此，可考慮組織一些傳教團隊，邀請青年帶著希望訊息和慰藉之言，或簡單地以樂意聆聽的態度去進行家訪。²³ 如可能，讓年輕人發揮他們的熱忱，讓他們以歌詠、祈禱和見證帶領公開的福傳活動，他們能走到街上，走到市內的廣場去與他們的朋輩會面，因為青年是向青年福傳的最佳人選。他們的臨在和他們那份充滿喜樂的信仰，已是福音「活潑的宣講」，足以吸引其他青年。

還應鼓勵青年去參與志願工作，慷慨地服務和自我奉獻。不要忘記，教會之所以在基督君王節前一個主日慶祝世界窮人日，正是為了鼓勵青年為最弱勢的社群、為被邊緣化及被社會遺棄的人們獻出他們的時間和精力的大好時機。如此，青年有機會「帶動愛德與服務的革命，以此抗衡那病態的、愛消費主義感染和膚淺的個人主義。」²⁴

²² 《生活的基督》，240。

²³ 參閱：《生活的基督》，240。

²⁴ 《生活的基督》，174。

d) 要讓青年日成為一個「分辨聖召的契機」及「成聖的召喚」

教會生活及傳教工作蘊含豐富的信仰經驗，而必須優先被考慮的是聖召這範疇。這方面是個循序漸進的過程，其中首要的是令青年領悟，他們整個生命都擺在那位愛他們並召叫他們的天主面前。天主召叫了他們，首要而言，是要他們獲得生命，然後，天主又持續不斷地召叫他們，使他們得享幸福。他們蒙召去認識天主，聆聽祂的聲音，而最重要的，是要他們接受祂的聖子耶穌為導師、朋友和救主。青年第一個重大的挑戰，就是要分辨和面對這些「人生的基本聖召」。當他們能嚴肅地看待來自天主的這些人生最基本的「召叫」時，他們已朝向著一些要求更高的生命的抉擇：接納生命作為天主的恩賜，因此必須符合天主的旨意去生活，而不再堅持己見；在情感及社交關係上、選擇基督徒的生活方式上、選修學科上、工作承擔上及在整個未來上，都要完全符合他們與天主建立並願維護的友誼；樂意捨己為人，以無私的愛為他人服務。在回應天主召叫時，這些都是經常要作的根本抉擇，能為青年的整個生命指出一個決定性的方向。教宗方濟各告訴他們說：「生命……是作出堅定、果斷和永恆抉擇的時刻。平庸的抉擇帶來平庸的一生，崇高的抉擇使生命變得崇高。」²⁵

25 教宗方濟各，《吾主耶穌基督——普世君王節日彌撒聖祭的講

從聖召這個更廣闊的視野來看，我們甚至上不需要害怕向青年們提出，他們必須按天主給他們每一位的召叫，作出自己生活方式的抉擇，不管是司鐸生活或度獻身生活，包括隱修生活，或是婚姻和家庭生活。按這重意義，修生們、度獻身生活者、夫婦和家庭，他們參與其中，能帶來極大的裨益。他們的臨在和見證有助於引發青年去提出與聖召相關的正確問題和開始去尋找天主為安排設想的「偉大計畫」。在這個需要小心處理的過程中，教會應陪伴青年，審慎地開導他們，引領他們作出成熟的選擇。當時機一成熟，要鼓勵他們不再停留在長期的猶豫不決當中，卻要信賴天主的助祐，果斷地作出個人的抉擇。

每個聖召的抉擇，必須基於一個更深層的成聖召叫。世青日必須讓成聖的召叫²⁶在青年的心中迴盪，使之成為達致幸福和自我實現的真正途徑。聖德是與每位青年的經歷和個性相應的，由天主按祂的奧妙途徑為各人所注定，使每個青年人都能譜寫成聖的英雄故事，或是那種不排除任何人的「鄰家的聖德」，正如已在許多青年身上發生而仍在發生的那樣。因此，珍惜本地和普世教會聖人——信仰前輩們——的豐富遺產，是合適的：他們的故事為我們證實，成聖的道路不僅是可能和可行的，而

道》，2020年11月22日，見前引。

26 參閱：教宗方濟各，《你們要歡喜踴躍》宗座勸諭，2。

且能帶來極大的喜樂。

e) 要讓青年日成為一個「朝聖的經驗」

從一開始，世界青年日已是一個龐大的朝聖旅程。它跨越時空，使朝聖者從不同的城市、國家和各大洲來到一個指定的地點，與教宗和其他青年會面。韶光荏苒，這個朝聖旅程已從一代青年延續到下一代，並收集了他們所作的見證，在教會過去三十五年的生活中留下了深刻的烙印。所以，世界青年日的青年的確是一群朝聖者。他們不是漫無目的四處遊蕩的流浪漢，而是團結一致的子民，邁向著一個目標「同道偕行」的朝聖者，要與唯一能賦予他們生命意義的那一位相遇，就是與降生成人的天主聖子相遇。祂召叫每位青年作祂的門徒，要他們「放下一切去跟隨祂」。單純簡樸，是朝聖的基本態度：朝聖要求年輕人撇下舒適圈和空泛的安全感，好能向天主上智的安排及「天主的驚喜」保持開放，採取一種節制和接納別人的作風，以一種訓練自己去超越自我的方式，面對沿途的挑戰。

因此，教區／東方禮教區舉辦的世界青年日慶典，可採用具體的方式為青年帶來朝聖真正和特有的經驗。這些經驗驅使青年走出他們的家庭，並踏上一個旅程。在這過程中他們會學習去體認旅途上的汗水和辛勞、身體的

疲憊和靈性的喜樂。其實，我們往往藉著一同朝聖而結識到新朋友，我們會因分享同一理想而感到興奮，我們一起凝視著共同的目標，在困難中彼此扶持，並因分享我們僅有的那一少許而喜樂。在今日的環境中，這一切都是至關重要的，因為許多青年都冒著自我孤立的風險，沉醉在虛擬的幻想世界之中，不沾「人生道路」上的黃塵。他們也就這樣被剝奪了那份並非以點擊的簡單動作就能得到，而是要在努力不懈和孜孜不倦、在理想實現後才獲享的強烈成就感——那是在身體和靈魂上都要堅定不移和百折不撓才能達成的目標。由此看來，教區／東方禮教區的青年日是由年輕的世代探索當地朝聖地和其他民間熱心敬禮的重要地點的絕佳良機，在此同時也要謹記：「各種形式的民間熱心敬禮，尤其朝聖活動，既吸引了那些難以融入教會常規活動的青年，而且也是表達對天主信賴的具體行動。」²⁷

f) 要讓青年日能成為一個「普世性的兄弟情誼經驗」

世界青年日不單是給天主教青年，而必須也是給所有青年的一個相遇場合。「每個青年都有某些東西要告訴別人。他或她都有一些要向成人說的話，一些要向司鐸、修女、主教，甚至是要向教宗說的話！」²⁸

²⁷ 《生活的基督》，238。

²⁸ 教宗方濟各，《於籌備世界青年日守夜祈禱中致辭》：《羅馬觀察報》，2017年4月10-11日，7。

就這方面而言，教區／東方禮教區性的世界青年日能成為讓所有住在某特定地區的年輕人聚首一堂，彼此交談的契機，不管他們信奉何種宗教、對生命有何看法，或把持甚麼信念。每位青年都必須感受到那份要他們投入參與的邀請，和像兄弟或姊妹般被接納。我們要「建立包容性的青年牧靈關懷，接納不同類型的青年，真正展現我們是敞開大門的教會。」²⁹

5. 青年的主導角色

一如先前提到的，青年牧靈工作者要格外留神，讓青年參與世界青年日牧靈計劃的各個步驟，以一種共議傳教的風格予以推行，並善用這個年齡層的典型創意、語言和做法。有誰會比青年更熟悉他們朋輩的語言和困難呢？有誰比青年更有能力以藝術、社交媒體等方式去接觸他們呢？

在籌備教區／東方禮教區活動時，過往曾參加過國際性世界青年日的青年的見證和經驗，尤其值得重視。

在一些地區教會裡，那些曾參與國際性世界青年日，或曾協助組織全國性或教區／東方禮教區性活動的青年已成為「過來人」，而且在這方面已有相當經驗，並曾在堂區、教區／東方禮教區或全國等不同環境中參與建立

²⁹《生活的基督》，234。

青年牧靈的團隊。由此我們可以看到，當青年在組織一些尤其重要的活動中擔當主導角色時，他們能啟發這些活動的理想化為自己的理想，能在心思念慮上掌握其重要性，而會為此充滿熱誠，樂意獻出自己的時間和精力與人分享這些理想。他們那份信仰和服務的強烈經驗，往往使他們樂於投身當地教會的日常牧靈關懷。

故此，我們重申，不論是來自教區內不同牧靈實體的青年，還是不屬於任何團體、青年小組、善會或教會運動的青年，我們都必須勇於讓他們投入參與，並把主動的角色委託予他們。教區／東方禮教區舉辦的青年日能成為凸顯地方教會那份豐富內涵的絕佳良機，也避免那些在完善的牧靈架構中較少出現或較被動的青年感到被排斥。每個人都必須感到那份「專誠的邀請」，他們都必須感受到人們對他們的期待和接納，因他們各人都有著其個別的獨特性及人性和靈性的潛能。如此，教區／東方禮教區的活動能成為激勵和接納所有願意在教會內尚未找到但正尋找自己的位置的青年的一個大好機會。

6. 教宗世界青年日年度文告

每一年，為教區／東方禮教區慶祝世界青年日，教宗都會給青年發表一篇文告。因此，讓籌備會議和教區／東方禮教區世界青年日參考教宗給青年的這些話語，尤其

從文告中強調的聖經章節中尋找靈感，是合適的。

為青年而言，能從親近他們的人那裡直接聽到天主聖言和教會的話語，也是重要的，這些人熟悉年輕人的特質，也熟悉他們的過去、喜好、困難和掙扎、所期待的和所希望的，他們懂得怎樣具體地把聖經和教會訓導的內容應用到這些青年在現實生活所面對的環境中。這種藉著教理講授和對話而進行的中介工作，也能幫助青年辨認出一些具體的方法，為他們所聽到的天主聖言作見證，在他們的日常生活中化為行動，也在家庭、在他們工作或進修的地方、在朋友之間付諸實行。

教宗的文告所建議的方向，旨在與青年在普世教會的旅途上同行，因此，要以智慧，以靈活的文化敏感性加以詮釋，並顧及當地的環境因素。它也能啟迪地方教會青年事工的路向，同時也要謹記教宗方濟各提出的兩個行動方向：尋找和成長。³⁰

我們不能排除世界青年日文告也能以藝術性或社會性的表達方式，或藉著不同的管道來作宣導，就如同教宗在其第三十五屆世界青年日文告中邀請我們「為世界、教會及其他青年在精神、藝術或社會的領域中提供一些美好的事物。」³¹ 此外，在牧靈年度中，文告的內容也可

³⁰ 參閱：《生活的基督》，209。

³¹ 教宗方濟各，《2020年第卅五屆世界青年日文告》：《羅馬觀察

以在其他重要時刻加以討論，例如：傳教月，或以天主聖言或聖召為題的月份，並經常考慮各主教團的提示。

最後，教宗的文告也能成為其他青年聚會的主題，而這些主題由當地教會青年牧靈工作者、善會或教會運動所建議。

7. 結語

教區／東方禮教區性世界青年日慶典，對每個地區教會的生活無疑是重要的一階段，這是與各個年輕世代相遇的特別時刻，也是青年的世界福傳及與他們對話的一個平台。我們不要忘記：「教會有很多事要與青年人說，青年人也有很多事要與教會分享。」³²

本牧靈指引旨在提供資源，並呈現一些積極的理念及可行的實踐方向，為使教區／東方禮教區舉辦的世界青年日能成為一個契機，誘導青年發揮指向美善的潛能、寬宏慷慨的精神、真正價值及每位青年在心中的偉大理想的渴望。因此，我們再次強調，地區教會要特別關注教區／東方禮教區世界青年日的重要性，好能適切地加以善用和體會。投資在青年身上，就是投資在教會的未來，意味著我們推廣聖召，也意味著要為將來的家庭開

報》，2020年3月6日，8。

³² 若望保祿二世，《基督信友平信徒》世界主教會議後宗座勸諭，46。

始長線的準備。因此，世界青年日不僅是在眾多活動上再加添的另一項，而是每個地方教會的一項重要任務。

讓我們把在世界各地的青年牧靈之旅託付給童貞聖母瑪利亞。就如同教宗方濟各在《生活的基督》中提醒我們：「我們的母親垂顧著這些旅途上的子民。她所愛的子民充滿活力。儘管旅途上喧嚷嘈雜，滿布令人心神渙散的事物，他們也在心裡保持靜默，仰賴這位母親。在母親的垂顧下，唯獨有充滿希望的靜默。但願瑪利亞重新照亮我們的青春活力。」³³

梵蒂岡，2021年4月22日

世界青年日十字架傳遞給青年週年紀念日

本文件經教宗方濟各准印

Cardinale Kevin Farrell

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³³《生活的基督》，48。

DICASTERY FOR LAITY, FAMILY AND LIFE

Pastoral Guidelines for the Celebration of World Youth Day in the Particular Churches

1. World Youth Day

The institution of World Youth Day was certainly the result of great prophetic insight on the part of St John Paul II. He explained the reasons for his decision as follows: “All young people must feel that they are cared for by the Church. Therefore, may the entire Church on a worldwide level, in union with the Successor of Peter, be more and more committed to young people, to their concerns and worries and to their aspirations and hopes, so as to meet their expectations by communicating the certainty that is Christ, the Truth that is Christ, the love that is Christ...”¹

Pope Benedict XVI took up the baton from his predecessor. On various occasions he stressed that these events are a providential gift for the Church. He described them as “a remedy against faith fatigue”, “a new, more youthful form of Christianity” and “new evangelisation put into practice”.²

¹ John Paul II, *To the College of Cardinals and members of the Roman Curia for Christmas*, 20 December 1985 [our translation].

² Cf. Benedict XVI, *Christmas greetings to Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops and Directors of the Governorate of Vatican City State*, 22 December 2011.

In Pope Francis’ view too, World Youth Day provides an extraordinarily powerful missionary thrust for the whole Church and, in particular, for the younger generations. Just a few months after his election, Pope Francis inaugurated his pontificate with WYD in Rio de Janeiro in July 2013, at the end of which he said that WYD “was a new stage on the pilgrimage of youth crossing the continents bearing the Cross of Christ”. He went on to say that “we must never forget that World Youth Days are not ‘firework displays’, flashes of enthusiasm that are an end in themselves; they are the stages of a long journey, begun in 1985, at the initiative of Pope John Paul II”.³ He clarified a central point: “Let us always remember: young people do not follow the Pope, they follow Jesus Christ, bearing his Cross. And the Pope guides them and accompanies them on this journey of faith and hope”.⁴

As we all know, international celebrations of the event are generally held every three years in a different country each time with the participation of the Holy Father. The ordinary celebration of WYD, on the other hand, takes place every year in the particular Churches that undertake the organisation of the event.

2. WYD in the particular Churches

World Youth Day celebrated in each particular Church has great significance and value, not only for the young people

³ Pope Francis, *Angelus*, 4 August 2013.

⁴ *Ibid.*

who live in that particular region, but for the entire local ecclesial community.

Some young people cannot take part in the international WYDs because of their studies, work or financial difficulties. It would therefore be good for each particular Church to offer them the possibility, even if at a local level, of a personal experience of a “festival of faith” that can be a powerful occasion for witnessing, communion and prayer similar to the international events. Those global WYDs have profoundly touched the lives of very many young people in every part of the world.

Moreover, when World Youth Day is celebrated at the local level, it has immensely important significance for particular Churches. It serves to raise awareness among the ecclesial community as a whole – laity, priests, consecrated persons, families, adults and the elderly – of their mission to transmit the faith to the younger generations. The General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme of “Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment” (2018) reminded us that the whole Church, including the universal and the particular and each of its members, must feel responsible for young people and be willing to allow ourselves be challenged by their questions, their desires and their difficulties. The celebration of these Youth Days at a local level is therefore extremely useful in keeping the Church mindful of the importance of walking with young people, and of welcoming them and listening to them with patience while

proclaiming the Word of God to them with affection and power.⁵

Specifically on the subject of holding WYD at a local level, this Dicastery, within the framework of its competencies,⁶ has drawn up some pastoral guidelines for the Bishops’ Conferences, the Synods of the Patriarchal Churches and Major Archbishops, the dioceses/eparchies, the ecclesial movements and associations and, last but not least, for young people all over the world, so that the “diocesan/eparchial WYD” may be fully experienced as a moment of celebration “for young people” and “with young people”.

These Pastoral Guidelines are intended to encourage the particular Churches to give increasingly more importance to the diocesan celebration of WYD. They are to look on it as a favourable opportunity to be creative in planning and implementing initiatives that show that the Church considers its mission with young people to be “a pastoral priority of epoch-making significance in which to invest time,

⁵ Cf. *Final Document of the Synod of Bishops on Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment*, 4. Hereafter, this document will be referred to as FD.

⁶ The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life “expresses the particular concern of the Church for the young, promoting their agency in the midst of the challenges of today’s world. It supports the initiatives of the Holy Father in the field of youth ministry and is at the service of the Episcopal Conferences, of international youth movements and associations, promoting their collaboration and organizing meetings on an international level. An important aspect of its activity is the preparation of World Youth Day” (Statutes, art. 8).

energy and resources”.⁷ We need to ensure that the younger generations feel that they are at the centre of the Church’s attention and pastoral concern. Indeed, young people want to be involved and appreciated, and to feel that they are co-protagonists in the life and mission of the Church.⁸

The guidelines that follow were drawn up mainly with individual dioceses in mind because dioceses are the framework and expression of the local Church. However, these recommendations must obviously be adapted to the different situations in which the Church finds itself in various regions of the world. Examples include cases where the dioceses/eparchies are small and have few human and material resources at their disposal. In these specific cases, or where it is seen to be pastorally expedient, it is possible for neighbouring or overlapping jurisdictions to join forces to celebrate Youth Day. It could be a group of several jurisdictions or an ecclesiastical region, or it could be at the national level.

3. The celebration of WYD at the local level on the Solemnity of Christ the King

At the end of Mass on the Solemnity of Christ the King on 22 November 2020, Pope Francis called for a relaunch of the celebration of WYD in the particular Churches. He announced that this celebration which has been traditionally held on Palm Sunday, starting in 2021 will be held on the

⁷ FD 119.

⁸ Cf. *Ibid.*

Sunday of the Solemnity of Christ the King.⁹

In this regard, we recall that on the Solemnity of Christ the King in 1984, St John Paul II summoned young people to a gathering on the occasion of the International Year of Youth (1985). That occasion, together with the convocation of the Jubilee of Young People in the Year of the Redemption (1984), marked the beginning of the long journey of WYD. Pope John Paul II said, “On this feast day [...] the Church proclaims the Kingdom of Christ, already present, but still growing in all its mystery towards its full manifestation. You, young people, are indispensable bearers of the dynamics of the Kingdom of God, the hope of the Church and the world”. This, then, was the genesis of WYD: on the day of Christ the King, young people from all over the world were invited “to come to Rome for a meeting with the Pope at the beginning of Holy Week, on Saturday and Palm Sunday”.¹⁰

Indeed, it is not difficult to see the link between Palm Sunday and Christ the King. In the Palm Sunday celebration, the entry of Jesus into Jerusalem is commemorated as that of a “king, gentle and riding on a donkey” (*Mt* 21:5) and

⁹ Cf. Pope Francis, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Remarks of the Holy Father at the Conclusion of Holy Mass, 22 November 2020. It is suggested that World Youth Day be held on the same date as the Solemnity of Christ the King, including in Churches where their rite does not provide for this Solemnity, although it can be celebrated on another day. Nevertheless, Ordinaries have the faculty to decide on an alternative.

¹⁰ John Paul II, *Angelus*, Sunday 25 November 1984 [our translation].

acclaimed as Messiah by the crowd: “Hosanna to the son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” (*Mt* 21:9). The evangelist Luke explicitly adds the title “King” to the crowd’s acclamation of “the one who comes”, thus emphasising that the Messiah is also King, and that his entry into Jerusalem is in a certain sense a royal enthronement: “Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord” (*Lk* 19:38).

The kingly dimension of Christ is so important to Luke that it appears from the beginning to the end of Jesus Christ’s earthly life and accompanies his entire ministry. At the Annunciation, the angel prophesies to Mary that the child she has conceived will receive from God “the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end” (*Lk* 1:32-33). At the dramatic moment of the crucifixion, while the other evangelists merely mention the insults of the two crucified men on either side of Jesus, Luke presents the moving figure of the ‘good thief’ who prays to Jesus from the scaffold of the cross, saying, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom” (*Lk* 23:42). The words of welcome and forgiveness that Jesus pronounced in response to this prayer make it clear that he is a King come to save: “today you will be with me in paradise” (*Lk* 23:43).

The key proclamation that must be addressed to young people and that must be at the centre of every diocesan/eparchial WYD celebrated on the day of Christ the King is

therefore: receive Christ! Welcome him as King into your lives! He is a King who came to save! Without him there is no true peace, no true inner reconciliation and no true reconciliation with others! Without his Kingdom, society too loses its human face. Without the Kingdom of Christ, all true fraternity and all genuine proximity to those who suffer will disappear.

Pope Francis noted that at the heart of the two liturgical celebrations, Christ the King and Palm Sunday, lies “the Mystery of Jesus Christ the Redeemer of humankind...”.¹¹ The core message is always that the full stature of humankind stems from love that gives itself to others “right to the end”.

This is therefore an invitation addressed to dioceses/eparchies to celebrate WYD on the Solemnity of Christ the King. It is a desire of the Holy Father that this should be a day for the universal Church to place young people at the centre of our pastoral attention, to pray for them, to engage young people as protagonists, to promote communications campaigns, etc. Ideally, an event (diocesan/eparchial, regional or national) should be organised on the day we celebrate Christ the King. There may be, however, reasons for the event to be held on another date.

This celebration should be part of a broader pastoral journey

¹¹ Pope Francis, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Remarks of the Holy Father at the Conclusion of Holy Mass, 22 November 2020, op. cit.

of which WYD is only one stage.¹² It is no coincidence that the Holy Father recommends that “Youth ministry has to be synodal; it should involve journeying together”.¹³

4. The cornerstones of WYD

During the Synod of Bishops on the topic of “Young people, faith and vocational discernment”, several contributions made by the Synod members concerned World Youth Day. In this regard, the Final Document states that “World Youth Day – the fruit of a prophetic insight of Saint John Paul II, who continues to inspire young people in the third millennium – and national and diocesan[eparchial] meetings, play an important part in the lives of many young people, since they offer a living experience of faith and communion that can help them meet life’s great challenges and responsibly take their place in society and in the Church”.¹⁴

While stressing that these gatherings point to “the ordinary pastoral accompaniment provided by individual communities, where the Gospel has to be shared and translated into life decisions”,¹⁵ the Document affirms that “they offer the possibility of journeying together as if on pilgrimage, of experiencing fraternity with all, of sharing the faith joyfully and growing closer to the Church”.¹⁶

¹² FD 142.

¹³ Pope Francis, Post-Synodal Exhortation *Christus vivit* (ChV) 206.

¹⁴ FD 16.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 142.

Let us explore some of these “cornerstones”¹⁷ that must be at the heart of every WYD, even at the local scale, and that therefore have clear programmatic value.

a. Youth Day as a “festival of faith”

WYD offers young people a lively and joyful experience of faith and communion, a space to experience the beauty of the face of God.¹⁸ At the heart of a life of faith is our encounter with the person of Jesus Christ, so it is good that every WYD should resound with the invitation for each young person to meet Christ and enter into a personal dialogue with him. “Then there is the greater celebration which is the feast of faith, when together we praise the Lord, sing, listen to the word of God, remain in the silence of worship: all of this is the culmination of WYD”.¹⁹

In this sense, the programme of international WYD (the kerygmatic, formative, witnessing, sacramental, artistic dimensions, etc.) can inspire at the local level where it can be adapted creatively. Particular attention should be paid to moments of silent adoration of the Eucharist as an act of faith par excellence, and to penitential liturgies as a special place of encounter with God’s mercy.

¹⁷ For more on the contribution of WYD to the spiritual journey of young people see: Benedict XVI, *Christmas greetings to Cardinals, Archbishops, Bishops and Directors of the Governorate of Vatican City State*, 22 December 2011, *op. cit.*; Pope Francis, *General Audience*, 4 September 2013.

¹⁸ Cf. FD 16 and 142.

¹⁹ Pope Francis, *General Audience*, 4 September 2013, *op. cit.*

Furthermore, it should be borne in mind how in every WYD the natural enthusiasm of young people, the eagerness with which they embrace anything that makes them feel involved and with which they live out their faith, all of this stimulates and reinvigorates the faith of the whole people of God. When young people are called by the Gospel and invited to an experience with the Lord, they often become courageous witnesses to the faith. This always results in the WYD event becoming something surprising and unique.

b. Youth Day as an “experience of Church”

It is important that the diocesan/eparchial celebration of WYD be an occasion for young people to experience ecclesial communion and to grow in their awareness of being an integral part of the Church. The first way to involve young people is to listen to them. In preparing for the diocesan/eparchial Youth Day, we need to find appropriate times and ways for the voices of young people to be heard within the existing structures of communion: diocesan/eparchial and inter-diocesan/eparchial councils, presbyteral councils, local councils of bishops, etc. Let us not forget that they are the youthful face of the Church!

Alongside the young people, there should be room for the various charisms present in the jurisdiction. It is essential that the organisation of the diocesan/parish celebration of WYD be choral and involve the various states of life in a project calling for synodal work, as the Holy Father asked for in *Christus Vivit*: “Motivated by this spirit, we can

move towards a participatory and co-responsible Church, one capable of appreciating its own rich variety, gratefully accepting the contributions of the lay faithful, including young people and women, consecrated persons, as well as groups, associations and movements. No one should be excluded or exclude themselves”.²⁰[20] In this way, it will be possible to gather and coordinate all the dynamic forces of the particular Church, as well as to reawaken those that are dormant.

In this context, the presence of the local Bishop and his willingness to be among the young people show them a clear sign of love and closeness. It is often the case for many young people that the diocesan/eparchial celebration of WYD is an opportunity to meet and converse with their bishop. Pope Francis encourages this pastoral style of proximity, where “we need to use above all the language of closeness, the language of generous, relational and existential love that touches the heart, impacts life, and awakens hope and desires”.²¹

c. Youth Day as a “missionary experience”

WYD at the international level has proved to be an excellent opportunity for young people to have a missionary experience. This must also be the case for diocesan/eparchial Youth Days. As Pope Francis says, “youth ministry is always missionary”.²²

²⁰ ChV 206.

²¹ ChV 211.

²² ChV 240.

For this purpose, missions can be organised in which young people are encouraged to visit people in their homes carrying a message of hope, a word of comfort or simply being willing to listen.²³ Wherever it is possible, the enthusiasm of young people can be harnessed to allow them to lead occasions of public evangelisation with songs, prayer and testimonies. They can go to streets and squares in the city where their peers meet, because young people are the best evangelisers of young people. Their very presence and their joyful faith already constitute a “living proclamation” of the Good News that attracts other young people.

Activities in which young people have an experience of voluntary work, freely given service and self-giving are also to be encouraged. It should not be forgotten that on the Sunday before the Solemnity of Christ the King, the Church celebrates World Day of the Poor. What better occasion to promote initiatives in which young people donate their time and energy for the benefit of the most disadvantaged, the marginalised and those who are discarded by society. In this way, young people are offered the chance to become “protagonists of the revolution of charity and service, capable of resisting the pathologies of consumerism and superficial individualism”.²⁴

²³ Cf. ChV 240.

²⁴ ChV 174.

d. Youth Day as an “opportunity for vocational discernment” and a “call to holiness”.

As part of a rich ecclesial and missionary experience of faith, priority should be given to the vocational dimension. It is a gradual approach that first of all helps young people understand that their whole life is placed before God who loves them and calls them. God has called them first and foremost to life and continually calls them to happiness. They are called to get to know God and to listen to his voice, and above all to accept his Son Jesus as their teacher, friend and Saviour. To recognise and come to terms with these “fundamental vocations” is the first great challenge for young people. When these first “calls” from God are taken seriously, they already point towards demanding life choices. These include accepting that our existence is a gift from God that must therefore be lived in reference to God and not in a self-referential way; the choice of a Christian way of living in our affections and social relationships; the choice of studies, of work commitment and of our entire future in such a way that it is fully in tune with the friendship with God that we have embraced and want to preserve; the choice of making our entire existence a gift for others to be lived in service and selfless love. These are often radical choices in response to God’s call that give a decisive direction to a young person’s whole life. Pope Francis tells them that “life [...] is a time for making robust, decisive, eternal choices. Trivial choices lead to a trivial

life; great choices to a life of greatness”.²⁵

Within this broader “vocational horizon”, there is no reason to be afraid of proposing to young people the choice that must be made of a state of life, one that is in accord with the call that God is addressing to each of them individually, whether it be to the priesthood or the consecrated life, including in the monastic form, or marriage and family. In this sense, the involvement of seminarians, consecrated persons, married couples and families can be of great help. By their presence and witness, they can help to prompt young people to ask the right vocational questions and to desire to set out in search of the “great plan” that God has in mind for them. In the delicate process that guides them to make these choices, young people must be accompanied and prudently advised. When the time is right, they should be encouraged to make their own personal option in a decisive way with trust in God’s help. They should not be stuck in a perpetual state of indecision.

Every vocational choice must have at its heart the even more profound call to holiness. WYD must resonate in young people the call to holiness as the true path to happiness and self-fulfilment.²⁶ It is holiness that is commensurate with the history and personality of each young person. It does not set limits to the mysterious ways that God has in store for each one that can lead to heroic stories of holiness – as has

²⁵ Pope Francis, Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Homily, 22 November 2020, op. cit.

²⁶ Cf. Pope Francis, Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et exsultate* 2.

happened and still happens with many young people – or to the “holiness next door” from which no one is excluded. It is therefore appropriate to make the most of the rich patrimony of saints of the local and universal Church, elder brothers and sisters in the faith, whose stories confirm to us that the path to holiness is not only possible and practicable, but that it brings great joy.

e. Youth Day as an “experience of pilgrimage”

WYD has been a great pilgrimage right from the beginning. It has been a pilgrimage through space and time. Pilgrims have travelled from different cities, countries and continents to the place chosen for the meeting with the Pope and the other young people. The pilgrimage through time has gone from one generation of young people to the next cohort who ‘pick up the baton’, and this has profoundly marked the past thirty-five years in the life of the Church. The young people of WYD are therefore a pilgrim people. They are not vagabonds who move around aimlessly. They are a united people, pilgrims who ‘walk together’ towards a goal, towards an encounter with the One who can give meaning to their existence, the God who became one of us and who calls every young person to be a disciple, to leave everything and to follow. Pilgrimage requires a minimalist approach that asks young people to leave behind empty comforts and certainties, to adopt a style of travel that is sober and welcoming and open to Providence and to “God’s surprises”, a style that teaches them to go beyond

themselves and to face the challenges that arise along the way.

The diocesan/eparchial celebration of WYD can propose specific ways for young people to have real pilgrimage experiences. These are the kind of experiences that encourage young people to leave their homes and set out on a journey, and on the way they are introduced to the sweat and toil of the journey, the fatigue of the body and the joy of the spirit. It is often through pilgrimage together that we make new friends, and we experience the excitement of sharing the same ideals as we look together towards a common goal with mutual support in difficulties and the joy of sharing the little we have. All this is of vital importance at the present time because many young people risk isolating themselves in virtual unreal worlds, far from the dusty roads and streets of the world. As a result, they are deprived of the deep satisfaction that comes from painstakingly and patiently reaching the desired goal, not with a simple click, but with the tenacity and perseverance of body and soul. In this sense, the diocesan/eparchial Youth Day is a great opportunity for the younger generations to explore local shrines and other significant places of popular piety. We bear in mind that “various manifestations of popular piety, especially pilgrimages, attract young people who do not readily feel at home in ecclesial structures, and represent a concrete sign of their trust in God”.²⁷

²⁷ ChV 238.

f. Youth Day as “an experience of universal fraternity”

WYD must be an opportunity for young people to meet that is not restricted to just young Catholics. “Every young person has something to say to others. He or she has something to say to adults, something to say to priests, sisters, bishops and even the Pope”.²⁸

In this respect, the diocesan/eparchial celebration of WYD can be an opportune time for all the young people who live in a given area to come together and talk to each other, regardless of their beliefs, their vision of life or their convictions. Every young person must feel invited to take part and be welcomed as a brother or sister. We need to build “youth ministry capable of being inclusive, with room for all kinds of young people, to show that we are a Church with open doors”.²⁹

5. Youth involvement

As already mentioned, it is important for youth ministry workers to be increasingly attentive to involving young people in all the steps of pastoral planning for WYD. It needs to be done in a synodal-missionary style and to make the most of the creativity, language and methods that are typical of that age bracket. Who knows the language and the problems of their peers better than they do? Who is more capable of reaching out to them through art, social media,

²⁸ Pope Francis, Address at a prayer vigil in preparation for World Youth Day, 8 April 2017.

²⁹ ChV 234.

etc.?

The testimony and experience of young people who have previously taken part in an international WYD deserve to be highlighted in the preparation of the diocesan/eparchial event.

In some particular Churches, the young people who have taken part in an international WYD or who have helped organise national and diocesan/eparchial youth initiatives, are now the “veterans” of these experiences and they have been involved in setting up youth ministry teams in a number of different settings including parish, diocesan/eparchial, national, etc. This shows us that when young people become prime movers in the organisation of particularly significant events, they can easily take on board the ideals that inspired those events. They fully grasp their importance and become passionate about them, and they are willing to devote time and energy to sharing them with others. Their powerful experiences of faith and service often lead to their willingness to commit themselves to the routine pastoral care in their local Church.

We would like to stress that we must have the courage to involve young people and entrust active roles to them. We should include youth from the various pastoral groups present in the diocese as well as those who do not belong to any community, youth group, association or movement. The diocesan/eparchial WYD can be a wonderful opportunity to highlight the richness of the local Church. It is important

to ensure that young people who are less present and less “active” in established pastoral structures do not feel excluded. Everyone must feel “specially invited”. They must all feel expected and welcome, each one in their individual uniqueness and human and spiritual potential. In this way, the diocesan/eparchial event can be a very good opportunity to motivate and welcome all those young people who may be looking for their place in the Church and who have not yet found it.

6. The Holy Father’s annual Message for WYD

Every year, in advance of the diocesan/eparchial celebration of WYD, the Holy Father publishes a Message for young people. It would therefore be appropriate for the preparatory meetings and the diocesan/eparchial WYD itself to be inspired by these words of the Holy Father to young people, and in particular by the biblical passage that is highlighted in the Message.

It is also important for young people to hear the Word of God and the word of the Church first hand from people close to them – people who are familiar with their characteristics, their history, tastes, difficulties and struggles, expectations and hopes. They would know how best to apply the biblical and magisterial texts to the actual real-life circumstances that these particular young people are encountering. This work of mediation, carried out in catechesis and dialogue, will also help young people to be able to identify specific ways in which to bear witness to the Word of God that they

have heard, to live it out in their daily lives and to embody it at home, in their places of work or study and among friends.

The direction proposed by the Pope's Message, which is intended to accompany the journey of the universal Church with young people, can therefore be interpreted with intelligence and great cultural sensitivity by taking into account the local context. It could also inspire the path of youth ministry in the local Church while not forgetting the two main lines of action that Pope Francis has identified: *outreach and growth*.³⁰

It cannot be excluded that the Message could also be conveyed through various artistic expressions or initiatives of a social nature, as the Holy Father invited us to do in his Message for the 35th WYD when he said, "offer the world, the Church and other young people something beautiful, whether in the realm of the spirit, the arts or society".³¹ Moreover, the content of the Message could also be taken up in other significant moments during the pastoral year, such as Mission Month or the months devoted to the Word of God or to vocations, always taking into account the indications given by the respective episcopal conferences.

Last but not least, the Holy Father's Message could become the theme of various other meetings for young people that are proposed by those working in youth ministry for the local Church, and by associations and ecclesial movements.

³⁰ Cf. ChV 209.

³¹ Pope Francis, Message for the 35th World Youth Day 2020.

7. Conclusion

The diocesan/eparchial celebration of WYD is undoubtedly an important element in the life of each particular Church. It is a special moment of encounter with the younger generations and an instrument of evangelisation of the world of youth and of dialogue with them. Let us not forget that "the Church has so much to talk about with youth, and youth have so much to share with the Church".³²

The Pastoral Guidelines contained in these pages are intended to be a resource that presents the ideal motivations and possible practical implementations that will allow a diocesan/eparchial WYD to be an opportunity to bring out the potential for good that is in each young person, with their generosity, thirst for authentic values and great ideals. We therefore repeat our insistence on the importance of particular Churches devoting special attention to the celebration of the diocesan/eparchial Youth Day, so that it may be properly utilised and appreciated. To invest in young people is to invest in the future of the Church. It is about encouraging vocations, and it effectively means the initiation of remote preparation for the families of tomorrow. It is, therefore, a vital task for every local Church and not simply one more activity.

Let us entrust the path of youth ministry throughout the world to Our Lady. Mary our Mother, as Pope Francis

³² John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Christifideles Laici* 46.

reminds us in *Christus Vivit*, “looks to this pilgrim people: a youthful people whom she loves, and who seek her in the silence of their hearts amid all the noise, the chatter and the distractions of the journey. Under the gaze of our Mother, there is room only for the silence of hope. Thus Mary illumines anew our youth”.³³

The Holy Father Pope Francis has given his approval for the publication of this document

From the Vatican, 22 April 2021

Anniversary of the handing over of the WYD Cross to young people

Kevin Cardinal Farrell
Prefect

Fr. Alexandre Awi Mello, I.Sch.
Secretary

³³ ChV 48.

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