

LEAP OF FAITH

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Pope Emphasizes Hope at Closing Mass of WYD

TORONTO, JULY 28, 2002 (ZENIT.org).- In moments of difficulty and scandal, the Church has even greater need of holy young people, John Paul II told a crowd of 800,000 at World Youth Day.

With a clear voice, the Pope expressed his happiness in seeing the ocean of humanity that gathered today in Downsview Park for WYD's concluding Mass. About 600,000 young people, most of whom did not sleep, spent the night in Downsview Park, Toronto's old airport. An early-morning storm woke up the few who had managed to sleep. The Mass began amid rain and strong winds.

Despite their exhaustion, the young people gave the Pope the same joyous welcome that characterized Saturday evening's prayer vigil.

Looking at the sea of young faces before him, John Paul II said in his homily: "Even a tiny flame lifts the heavy lid of night. How much more light will you make, all together, if you bond as one in the communion of the Church! If you love Jesus, love the Church!"

"Do not be discouraged by the sins and failings of some of her members. The harm done by some priests and religious to the young and vulnerable fills us all with a deep sense of sadness and shame," he added -- a reference to scandals in the United States and elsewhere.

"But, think of the vast majority of dedicated and generous priests and religious whose only wish is to serve and do good!" he said. "There are many priests, seminarians and consecrated persons here today; be close to them and support them!"

"And if, in the depths of your hearts, you feel the same call to the priesthood or consecrated life, do not be afraid to follow Christ on the royal road of the Cross! At difficult moments in the Church's life, the pursuit of holiness becomes even more urgent," the Pope continued.

"You are young, and the Pope is old and a bit tired," he added. As if to engage the Holy Father in dialogue, the young people cried out: "The Pope is young; the Pope is young."

John Paul II interrupted them, saying: "But he still fully identifies with your hopes and aspirations. Although I have lived through much darkness, under harsh totalitarian regimes, I have seen enough evidence to be unshakably convinced that no difficulty, no fear is so great that it can completely suffocate the hope that springs in the hearts of the young."

"Do not let that hope die! Stake your lives on it! We are not the sum of our weakness and failures; we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of his Son," John Paul II said, before raising a prayer he composed for the young for the occasion.

By then the sun was beginning to shine. During the event John Paul II

spoke spontaneously in French, English and Spanish.

As the Mass got under way, Bella Sarmiento, who was with a group from Los Angeles, said: "We go to Mass every Sunday, but this is the first time we go to Mass in the rain. What an experience!" ☩

Pope Challenges Them to Be Builders of Civilization of Love

TORONTO, JULY 28, 2002 ([Zenit.org](http://zenit.org)).- John Paul II entrusted the 600,000 young people gathered at Saturday's prayer vigil with the mission to be builders of a new civilization of love.

"God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the civilization of love," the Pope told the young people from 173 countries, gathered in Downsview Park, for World Youth Day.

Recalling that this century has begun in the shadow of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, "an image that is a sort of icon of a world in which hostility and hatred seem to prevail," the Pontiff asked his young listeners: "On what foundations must we build the new historical era that is emerging from the great transformations of the 20th century?"

"Is it enough to rely on the technological revolution now taking place, which seems to respond only to criteria of productivity and efficiency, without reference to the individual's spiritual dimension or to any universally shared ethical values?" John Paul II continued.

The Holy Father replied: "Spontaneously in your hearts, in the enthusiasm of your young years, you know the answer, and you are saying it through your presence here this evening: Christ alone is the cornerstone on which it is possible solidly to build one's existence."

"The 20th century often tried to do without that cornerstone, and attempted to build the city of man without reference to him," he added. "It ended by actually building that city against man! Christians know that it is not possible to reject or ignore God without demeaning man."

"Allow me, dear young people, to consign this hope of mine to you," John Paul II said in a confidential tone: "You are the men and women of tomorrow. The future is in your hearts and in your hands. God is entrusting to you the task, at once difficult and uplifting, of working with him in the building of the civilization of love."

The Holy Father appeared in good physical state, and showed his joy when gazing on the ocean of young people listening to him.

When John Paul II arrived at Downsview Park, he was greeted with interminable applause and cries of enthusiasm from his young audience, while the "popemobile" moved through the human corridors to the sound of classical music and undulating flags.

He then went up to the platform, dominated by a 55-meter yellow cross, from which light radiated throughout the area. The Holy Father moved around the platform in a mobile stand, pushed by two men in regional costumes.

Before concluding the ceremony, the Pope gave 12 couples as many small sacks of salt to symbolize their mission to be salt and light of the world, the motto of this World Youth Day.

The young people spent the night in Downsview Park and endured a storm at dawn while waiting for the closing papal Mass. ☩

Germany Is Venue for World Youth Day 2005

TORONTO, JULY 28, 2002 ([Zenit.org](http://www.zenit.org)).- John Paul II announced officially that the next World Youth Day will be held in the German city of Cologne in 2005.

"As pilgrims, your spiritual journey to Cologne starts today. Christ awaits you there for the 20th World Youth Day!" John Paul II said at the end of the closing Mass for Toronto's edition of World Youth Day.

In general, World Youth Days are held every two years at the international level. This time, however, the Pope prefers that the meeting in Germany be preceded by three years of preparation, so that it will bear much spiritual fruit among young people.

The Holy Father described this period of preparation as "our pilgrimage of faith."

John Paul II thanked the Church in Canada and the country's authorities for their efforts to make this WYD a success. About 800,000 people attended the closing Mass.

This afternoon the Holy Father met with the members of the WYD organizing committee to shake their hands and thank them for their work.. ☩

John Paul II's Closing Remarks at World Youth Day

Looks Ahead to Cologne in 2005

TORONTO, JULY 28, 2002 (ZENIT.org).- Here are the words John Paul II expressed both before and after the recitation of the Angelus at the conclusion of World Youth Day 2002.

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We conclude this splendid celebration of the Eucharist with the Angelus prayer to Mary, Mother of the Redeemer.

To her I entrust the fruits of this World Youth Day, that in time, with her help, they may flourish. This World Youth Day must mark a reawakening of pastoral attention to the young in Canada. May the enthusiasm of this moment be the spark that is needed to launch a new era of powerful witness to the Gospel!

I wish formally to announce that the next World Youth Day will take place in 2005, in Cologne, Germany.

In the great Cathedral in Cologne are honored the relics of the Magi, the Wise Men from the East who followed the star which led them to

Christ. As pilgrims, your spiritual journey to Cologne starts today. Christ awaits you there for the Twentieth World Youth Day!

May the Virgin Mary, our Mother on our pilgrimage of faith, be with you on the way.

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae ...

[Following the recitation of the "Angelus," the Pope greeted young people in several languages. He began in French]

I wish to thank everyone who has helped to make the World Youth Day such a success: the citizens of Toronto, the volunteers, the Police, the Fire Department, the Mayor and the authorities at every level of the Canadian government.

My heartfelt greeting goes to the other Christian Churches and Communities represented here, as well as to the followers of other religious traditions.

My wish for all of you who are here is that the commitments you have made during these days of faith and celebration will bring forth abundant fruits of dedication and witness. May you always treasure the memory of Toronto!

(In English) I extend a special word of gratitude to Cardinal Ambrozic, Archbishop of Toronto, to the Canadian Bishops Conference and to the Organizing Committee. My thanks also go to the Pontifical Council for the Laity in the person of the President, Cardinal James Francis Stafford.

I greet the Cardinals and Bishops who have come from other parts of the world; and all the priests, deacons, and religious who shared these days with the young people.

As we prepare to return home, I say, in the words of Saint Augustine: "We have been happy together in the light we have shared. We have really enjoyed being together. We have really rejoiced. But as we leave one another, let us not leave Him" (In Io.ev. tr., 35,9).

(In Spanish) Thanks to all the Spanish-speaking young people. Do not be afraid to respond generously to the Lord's calling. Let your faith shine before the world. Let your actions show your commitment to the saving message of the Gospel!

(In Portuguese) Dear Portuguese-speaking young people: The World Youth Day does not end here; it will continue in your lives of fidelity to Christ. Be salt! Be light for the world around you!

(In Italian) Dear Italian young people: Keep alive the gift of faith which has sustained you in these days. The Church needs your dedication. Arrivederci a Roma! (See you in Rome)

(In German) Dear German-speaking friends: You in a special way have to keep alive the spirit of the World Youth Day, in order to prepare for Cologne in 2005. Work to build a civilization of love and justice. Let your light lead many others to Christ's kingdom of holiness, truth and justice.

(In Polish) My thoughts turn to our Polish homeland, which I will soon visit again. Never lose sight of your Christian heritage. It is there that you will find the wisdom and courage you need to meet the great moral and ethical challenges of our times. I entrust you all to the protection of Our Lady of Jasna Góra. ☩

