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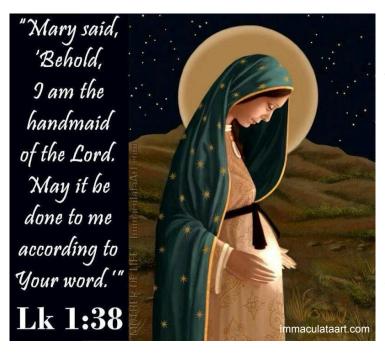
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December, 2018

Advent Blessings and Merry Christmas! As I type this update, the countdown clock at garywyd.com reads "32 Days." In a little over a month we will board a bus headed to O'Hare to encounter Christ in so many profound ways that are hard to describe! That experience of the Catholic Church you have in your local parish? How amazing it will be to see the SAME faith—celebrated and proclaimed for 2,000 years—on display in so many languages, in so many faces.



Christmas affords us an opportunity to focus on the WYD theme: I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word (Luke 1:38). Mary's loving "YES" and the Most Holy Incarnation transformed the world. By all scholarly accounts, Mary was a pregnant teenage virgin. We all face a world that is not accepting of religion, and it can be difficult to face that animosity, but nothing compared to how ostracized Mary must have felt! Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!

This mailing (and posting at garywyd.com) will update you on misc. WYD items as you prepare for the pilgrimage. The truth of the matter is that not a lot has changed since we met in September!

That said, WYD tends to wait until the last-minute to release details on things. I will be passing along details you need to know between now and January 23rd via **garywyd.com**, email, and/or the Remind text group.

A sincere mea culpa for not gathering one last time. We sincerely tried, but simply have not been able to do so. Fortunately there are only 15 of us, so it won't take long for us to get to know each other!

May God bless you and your families this Christmas season

Kevin Driscoll Diocese of Gary Office for Youth & Young Adults

This mailing is additional information, supplemental to previous info and handouts. To review, visit garywyd.com and click on the Pilgrim Notes notebook. Everything I've ever mailed or emailed is there! I will also be sending a January mailing that includes:

· detailed airport shuttle info (see note in this mailing)

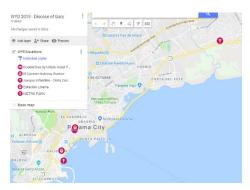
 \cdot more specific WYD transportation details, including public transportation guidance and a tentative plan for our Sat/Sun Vigil/Mass pilgrimage

 \cdot info on meal options

 \cdot late-breaking info

Airport shuttling: As part of your package, you will receive transportation to and from O'Hare. We are still ironing out the details. The January mailing will have specific times and locations, but here's what we're working toward:

- \cdot you can work/go to school Wednesday
- \cdot late afternoon pickup locations in Valparaiso and/or Merrillville
- \cdot a safe place to park
- \cdot a Mass and/or Commissioning Service before we leave (likely with Bishop Hying!)



Google Map/Locations: I created a custom Google Map with key WYD locations, including hotel, subway stops, vigil site, etc. If you know your way around a map and want to familiarize yourself with the lay of the land, determine how much walking it will take to get to the Papal welcome from the hotel, etc., visit:

<u>https://bit.ly/garywydmap</u> If you are logged in with a Google account, you can save the map to your own account.

You will notice we have a great location! Especially since we are steps from a subway station. As details unfold in January, I will be preparing additional supplemental materials to help you get from Point A to Point B, so that you will maximize your time in Panama, and not waste any of it trying to figure out where you are!

Vigil/Mass site established: WYD vets know that the location of the Saturday/Sunday overnight Vigil and Mass site is important! There had been some talk about it being at Cinta Costera, where the other large events will be held, but alas, it will not be so close (our hotel is very close to Cinta Costera). **Metro Park** is the site, and you can find that on the custom Google Map I created <u>https://bit.ly/garywydmap</u>. It is an appr. 10 mile walk from hotel to site. Fortunately we will have some subway/bus options. I plan to spend some time with this in January and I



will make some tentative transportation plans before we depart. There's a fine line: a challenging journey to and from the site is part of the pilgrim experience. But it can also be miserable and/or possibly scary if it's too daunting a journey. Public transportation breaks down when 1.5 million gather in one place at one time! Stay tuned!

WhatsApp: I hope to get everyone to use WhatsApp while we are in Panama. It is an effective means of internal communication—everyone will be able to communicate to the group if need be—and when wifi is available you can also use it without using cellular data. It allows for texting and phone calling. I haven't set up the group yet, but you can get a jump on things by installing the WhatsApp on your phone.

Packing list: Our travel agency and I teamed up to provide a packing list, enclosed. This differs slightly from the one included in September handouts. Note that it includes info about Copa Airlines baggage policies, weight limits, etc.

World Youth Day Panama 2019 Pilgrim Kit: Each pilgrims will receive everything below. Visit social media sites above to get a closer look. REMEMBER: while you will get a backpack, I highly recommend bringing your own and treating the WYD backpack as a souvenir, because WYD backpacks are very easily lost!



The contents of the Pilgrim Kit are as follows:

Hat: It's summer in Panama and you will definitely use this nice hat embroidered with the logo of World Youth Day.

Shirt: In your pilgrim kit, you will get one of the 3 different colored shirts . The space between the lines represents the entrance to the Panama Canal and its passage that connects the world.

Backpack: On top of using it during WYD, this attractive backpack can be kept by transforming it into a small handbag.

Multiuse scarf: You get to decide how to use this multiuse scarf. Its design highlights youthful art and the 5 points in the logo crown the silhouette of our Blessed Mother, Mary, representing the 5 continents.

Wristband: So that you never forget it, we have included a wristband in the pilgrim kit with the theme of WYD.

Rosary: Handmade by refugees in Bethlehem, this meaningful olive wood rosary will be a good instrument to connect with our mother Mary in prayer.

Books: This pilgrim kit also includes the Prayer Book, the Pilgrim Guide, and the Online with Saints book, which will help you meditate and live this great youth encounter with joy.

Reusable water bottle: There will also be a bottle that you can reuse to drink water and reduce consumption of plastic bottles.

WYD Catechetical Themes: Because of our abbreviated travel schedule, we will likely miss out on WYD Catechesis, with the possible exception of Friday. An English-speaking Catechesis gathering could be an option you consider that day. Nonetheless, as part of your Spiritual journey, I encourage you to read the enclosed *Catechetical Themes: World Youth Day 2019*, as it provides each day's theme and a reflection.

Wednesday, January 23: Here I am!

Thursday, January 24: I am the servant of the Lord.

Friday, January 25: May in be done to me according to your Word.

Safety Reminder, Enroll in the STEP Program: As we approach WYD in Panama, the USCCB WYD office highly encourages all pilgrims and leaders to enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Plan (STEP). It is a free service to allow U.S. citizens and nationals traveling and living abroad to enroll their trip with the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. Visit <u>https://step.state.gov/step/</u>

WYD social media sites: Get excited by following along! facebook.com/worldyouthday (official, Panama) facebook.com/wydusa (USCCB WYD office) Twitter: @wyd_en (official, Panama) Twitter: @wydusa (USCCB WYD office) Instagram: panama2019



(Photo: Pilgrims gather at Blonia Park in Krakow, Poland during the Way of the Cross, part of World Youth Day 2016. (CNS photo/David W. Cerny, Reuters)

"Just hangin' with the Pope, no big deal." When we gather in Cinta Costera for the Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis) presentation on Friday, January 25, one of us will have a special vantage point: on stage with Pope Francis. **Vicky Hathaway**, a young adult parishioner of St. Edward (Lowell) and representative on the Bishop's Council on Young Adult Evangelization, was invited by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' World Youth Day office to join a small group of young adults from the U.S.A. to be present with the Holy Father during the Via Crucis, a WYD Friday evening tradition established by Saint John Paul II, the founder of World Youth Day.

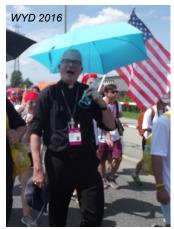
Vicky was selected for her "tireless and dedicated service" to young adults in Northwest Indiana, her "engagement on the diocesan and national levels of young adult ministry," and also for her work with persons with disabilities, "an area close to the heart of Pope Francis," according to the USCCB invitation email.

Congratulations, Vicky! And to make sure we get good pictures, I have applied for a media credential for **Laura Bender** (Holy Spirit, Winfield), who is a darned good photographer. The request is still being verified, but I'm confident she will also be up close and personal with the Holy Father as well!



USCCB Social Media Invitation: As part of the USCCB WYD Office's efforts to bring the message of World Youth Day back to those watching in the States, they would like to provide cameos of American young adult pilgrims (18-35) and showcase who they are, why they're coming to Panama, and what this experience means to them. See attached flyer.

Trading at World Youth Day: (via USCCB) One way of celebrating cultural exchange is by trading items with others. This is especially fun if you bring or make items to trade such as prayer cards, crosses, buttons, stickers, decorated clothespins, bandanas, hats, shirts, and so forth. These items can represent your local parish, diocese, or movement, your local community, your state, or even your country. Some people give away their items, but most try to bargain an exchange for items that other pilgrims want to trade. There's no official time or location to engage in these interactions, as it is done informally throughout the week, en route to events, on the pilgrimage walk, or while waiting for programs to begin. Remember that trading is optional, so don't worry if you do not have anything to trade.



Pilgrim advice from Bishop Hying: just prior to World Youth Day 2016, Bishop Hying posted to his Facebook page these "ground rules for Christians on a pilgrimage, whether we are going to (World Youth Day) or to heaven.

1. Love, support and be patient with your fellow pilgrims.

2. Nothing is going to go the way we planned it. Be flexible.

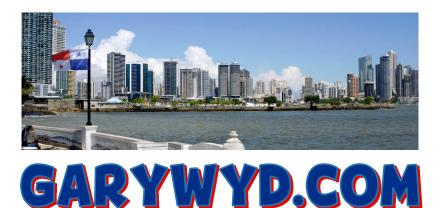
3. Smile and be gracious, even when it's hard. It makes the trip much more pleasant for all of us.

4. Be on time. Chronically late pilgrims slow down the group.

5. Be prepared to be touched by the grace and love of God in extraordinary ways!

6. Getting there should be almost as enjoyable as being there.

As Teresa of Avila said, 'For those on their way to heaven, the whole way there is heaven.' This pilgrimage...will be life-changing! How many young people discovered their vocation at WYD?"





WYD Packing Checklist



Before Departure

- □ Register with the US State Department at <u>https://step.state.gov/step/</u>
- Contact Medical provider for any information you need to know in the event of an emergency (*put in carry-on bag)
- Contact Bank if you intend to use an ATM card and credit card company if you intend to use a credit card.

Most Important Items

- Passport & Medical Forms
- Passport photocopy (bring extra copies)
- □ ID Card (i.e. license if you have one)
- Medical insurance card
- □ Money belt (* Be very cautious about securing valuables don't put any valuables in backpack)
- □ Money for souvenirs & meals (US \$ OK)
 - NOTE: You will be responsible for meals in transit, and some lunches.
- □ A second passport picture, in case your passport is lost.
- □ FM portable radio and earphones (events will be translated through radio stations at 101.7 & 95.9 FM)
- Sun Screen!

Toiletries: soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, feminine products, handi-wipes or hand sanitizer, etc...*No aerosol cans i.e.: hairspray FYI: Buy disposables and small travel sizes – talk with other pilgrims...any supplies that you can share? (Walgreens, Walmart etc have sections dedicated to travel-sized products)

Personal Water Bottle(s)

WHEN TRAVELING WITH MEDICATIONS:

□ All medications should be in the original container, properly labeled and carried in your carry-on bag. Bring a copy of your prescription/s with you, in your carry-on bag (in case there are any questions going through customs)

- □ If you are carrying a narcotic based prescription drug (sedatives, tranquilizers) make sure to get a letter from your doctor stating why you need the drug/s in question to avoid potential problems with customs officials.
- Bring more medicine than you need. An extra week's supply is a good rule of thumb.

Luggage

□ <u>Maximum</u> – 1 suitcase (50 lb max.) + 1 small carry-on bag/backpack – avoid large luggage! (remember to leave room if you are planning on bringing back souvenirs)

- Luggage tags (must be on each piece of your baggage this includes your carry on and sleeping bag)
- □ Thin sleeping cover¹, Inflatable cushion or mat¹ (for the outdoor overnight vigil). Please note if carried separately, will count as a carry on item.

Ground cover (plastic poncho is good or trash bags or plastic painting tarp), will help you establish "territory" for papal visit locations

Pilgrim backpack will be given to us when we arrive in Krakow and will include:

- Rosary
- Metro pass
- WYD Hat
- Pilgrims booklet
- Guidebook to WYD

Remember: Whatever you take, you carry.

^{1–} Kev: I discourage sleeping bags, and strongly recommend leaving behind whatever you decide to bring (vigil site items are salvaged and donated). Avg. low temp is 73°, so you likely won't get cold; consider a very light blanket or bed sheet for cover. Inflatable pool rafts take up less space too.

Clothing

Casual dress clothes are the rule for our attire for most of the time.

One outfit that is a little dressier is recommended (Sunday night dinner)

□ Clothing must fit appropriately: midriffs and undergarments are to be covered at all times. No tank tops or halter tops, or t-shirts with inappropriate advertising or writing – throughout the pilgrimage.

□ Good walking shoes – we will do lots of walking – break them in - in advance! (2 pairs are recommended) – No flipflops; closed toe shoes are most appropriate and will protect your feet in the crowds, rubber soles are highly recommended

Good socks (consider wearing 2 pair for days with long walks)

Undergarments

You should not bring:

□ *No aerosol cans i.e.: hairspray

- □ Expensive handheld devices. Cell phones that do not work internationally.
- Jewelry should be left at home
- *** Please DO NOT PACK, scissors, nail clippers, tweezers or anything of the like in your carry-on bag!!!

This is a pilgrimage – please travel light and pack only what you need!



December 20, 2018

Dear World Youth Day ministry leaders,

My name is Connie Poulos. I'm a digital media specialist with USCCB Communications. I'll be down in Panama during World Youth Day to make sure the Conference's 400,000 social media followers don't miss any of the excitement – and feel like they are part of the experience (because those young people celebrating stateside are WYD pilgrims, too).

As part of our efforts to bring the message of World Youth Day back to those watching in the States, I would like to provide cameos of American young adult pilgrims and showcase who they are, why they're coming to Panama, and what this experience means to them.

Essentially, this experience will involve three things:

- 1. A social media post prior to World Youth Day featuring the young adult's photo, name, where they're from, and what brings them to World Youth Day and/or what they hope to experience.
- An on-site meet-up, including a filmed conversation, at the USCCB World Youth Day USA headquarters on the Cinta Costera (site of the week's main events) in Panama City on Tuesday, January 22, 2019 at 1pm (details to follow with exact location).* Bear in mind we will not be there yet for this
- 3. A social media post update in February 2019, after everyone has gone home, with a quote as to what this experience has meant to them in their walk with the Lord.

To make this possible, we're looking for young adults* (ages 18-35) that you think would be interested in participating. If you have someone in mind, please put them in contact with me at <u>cpoulos@usccb.org</u>. Also, feel free to contact me directly by email if you have questions or would like more information about this social media project.

Thank you very much for your help. I'm looking forward to working with you.

Connie

Connie Poulos Digital Media Specialist, Marketing and Episcopal Resources USCCB Communications 202.541.3092 www.usccb.org

*Please note that participants *must* be over 18 and willing to sign a media release.



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Vatican, World Youth Day officials release pope's Panama itinerary

By Junno Arocho Esteves Catholic News Service

11.27.2018 9:02 AM ET



CNS photo/Bienvenido Velasco, EPA People attend the christening ceremony of the new bells of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Mary Nov. 24 in Panama City. Archbishop Jose Domingo Ulloa Mendieta of Panama spoke during the ceremony for the new eight bells and the opening of the renovated cathedral, where Pope Francis will celebrate Mass in January during World Youth Day. (CNS photo/Bienvenido Velasco, EPA) See POPE-PANAMA-SCHEDULE Nov. 27, 2018

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- When Pope Francis visits Panama for World Youth Day in January, he will meet with young people not able to attend the festivities: some in jail and with some living with HIV.

He also will dedicate the altar of Panama's newly renovated 400-year-old cathedral, meet with bishops from Central America and have lunch with some of the young people attending the youth day gathering, according to the schedule released by the Vatican Nov. 20.

The pope's visit to Panama Jan. 23-27 will be his 26th trip outside of Italy. During his visit, he will deliver seven speeches and celebrate two Masses as well as a penitential liturgy.

The theme for World Youth Day 2019 is taken from the Gospel of St. Luke: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

The pope's meeting with young people who will be unable to take part in the activities is a response to the Gospel's call to clothe the naked, visit the sick and comfort the imprisoned, the organizing committee said in a Nov. 20 statement.

Archbishop Jose Domingo Ulloa Mendieta of Panama said Pope Francis' meeting with young detainees will be "a very special event" in which "young people deprived of freedom will take part in a penitential liturgy with the Holy Father in an act of repentance, reconciliation and forgiveness," the committee said.

After the closing Mass for World Youth Day, the pope will visit Casa Hogar el Buen Samaritano (Good Samaritan Home), a center dedicated to helping HIV and AIDS patients "regardless of their sex, religion, sexual orientation,

geographical origin" and "who lack the resources to live and cope with their illness."

The pope will also pray the Angelus there with young people from the Malambo hospice, which helps people addicted to drugs and alcohol, and from Hogar San Jose, a house for the poor run by the Missionaries of Charity and the Kkottongnae religious congregation.

Here is the detailed schedule released by the Vatican. All times are local, with Eastern Daylight Time in parentheses:

Wednesday, Jan. 23 (Rome, Panama)

-- 9:35 a.m. (3:35 a.m.) Departure from Rome's Fiumicino Airport.

-- 4:30 p.m. Arrival at Tocumen International Airport in Panama.

-- 4:50 p.m. Transfer to the apostolic nunciature.

Thursday, Jan. 24 (Panama)

-- 9:45 a.m. Welcoming ceremony at Palacio de las Garzas presidential palace.

-- 10 a.m. Courtesy visit with Panamanian President Juan Carlos Varela at Palacio de las Garzas.

-- 10:40 a.m. Meeting with government authorities and the diplomatic corps at Bolivar Palace. Speech by pope.

-- 11:15 a.m. Meeting with Central American bishops in the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Speech by pope.

-- 5:30 p.m. Welcoming ceremony and gathering with young people in Santa Maria la Antigua Field. Speech by pope.

Friday, Jan. 25 (Panama)

-- 10:30 a.m. Penitential liturgy with juvenile delinquents in Las Garzas de Pacora Juvenile Detention Center in Pacora. Homily by pope.

-- 11:50 a.m. Transfer by helicopter to the apostolic nunciature.

-- 5:30 p.m. Way of the Cross with young people in Santa Maria la Antigua Field. Speech by pope.

Saturday, Jan. 26 (Panama)

-- 9:15 a.m. Mass and dedication of the altar of the Cathedral Basilica of St. Mary with priests, men and women religious and lay movements. Homily by pope.

-- 12:15 p.m. Lunch with young people at San Jose Major Seminary

-- 6:30 p.m. Prayer vigil with young people at St. John Paul II Field. Speech by pope.

Sunday, Jan. 27 (Panama)

-- 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. John Paul II Field to mark World Youth Day. Homily by pope.

-- 10:45 a.m. Visit to Casa Hogar el Buen Samaritano (Good Samaritan Home). Speech and Angelus by pope.

-- 4:30 p.m. Meeting with World Youth Day volunteers, the local organizing committee and benefactors at Rommel Fernandez Stadium. Speech by pope.

-- 6:00 p.m. Farewell ceremony at Tocumen International Airport.

-- 6:15 p.m. Departure from Tocumen International Airport.

Monday, Jan. 28 (Rome)

-- 11:50 a.m. (5:50 a.m.) Arrival at Rome's Ciampino Airport.

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Catechetical Themes: World Youth Day 2019

General Information:

Catechesis will take place Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, January 23-25, 2019, in different languages, and bishops from the around the world will serve as catechists. Each catechetical site will have an animation team to lead opening prayer, conversation, readings, and music.

Catechetical sessions begin at 9:00 a.m. on each of the three days, and conclude by 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 23 First Catechesis Topic: *Here I am!*

Reflection Notes:

- Every young person who has answered the invitation to World Youth Day has, in a sense, said yes to a call saying, "Here I am." They have been called by Jesus through the Church, and Jesus shows them that he is there for each one of them.
- Every young person, loved infinitely by God, is important and precious. Although there are hundreds of thousands of young people at World Youth Day, everyone is unique and is called to have a personal experience of the love of the Lord. They discover that they are part of the great human family and that the Church wants to be a home, community and family for young people. Every young person present says, "Here I am."
- The question to ask is: Who are you? What feelings do you have in your heart? What are your dreams, desires and fears?
- At this World Youth Day pilgrimage, Jesus welcomes every young person as he or she is. Their encounter with Jesus will open new paths and new horizons. This happened to Mary, the young woman from Nazareth who said, "Here I am."
- 1Samuel 3 (God's call to Samuel)

Thursday, January 24 Second Catechesis Topic: *I am the servant of the Lord*

Reflection Notes:

• There are many young people who wish to "help others" and who allow this to give meaning to their lives. It is an ideal that is not only shared among young Christians. In voluntary service to those in need, many young people discover inner beauty and goodness that they did not know about before. They discover how their lives can become a gift to others.

- In the biblical account of the washing of the feet (*see John 13: 1-20*), Jesus teaches us that God is the first to give service: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example ...". How can we be afraid of our God who reaches down like this out of love for his children?
- When we become "servants of the Lord," like Mary, we realize that we are her children and friends. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends ... I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends" (*John 15:13,15*).
- The dynamic attitude of young people who engage in some service, even if small, can change the world! As Saint Teresa of Calcutta said, "We know only too well that what we are doing is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. But if the drop were not there, the ocean would be missing something. It is not so important what we do, but how much love we put into what we do. We must do small things with great love."

Friday, January 25 Third Catechesis Topic: *May in be done to me according to your Word*.

Reflection Notes:

- During this morning, young people are invited to have an attitude of listening to the Lord. In personal and community prayer, everyone is called to think about what has impressed them most by what has taken place and what has been discussed (in the two previous catechesis sessions, in the first meeting with the Holy Father on Thursday evening, in the various meetings, moments of silence and prayer, etc.).
- Everyone is called to think again about the journey traveled so far (towards World Youth Day and in their own lives). Where do I want to arrive? From where did I set out? Where am I now? What did I learn along the way? Did I get lost along the way? Did I go wrong? Where did the wrong paths lead me? The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be a good opportunity to find the right path towards the goal, with the help of an authoritative guide (the confessor).
- We are called, as Mary was, to discern God's will for our lives. What plans does God have for me? What is my place in the Church and in the world? How can I better love and serve God and neighbor?
- There is a specific invitation to prayer, to the Sacrament of Reconciliation (in the venue of catechesis or within the "Parque del Perdón," the Reconciliation Park at World Youth Day in Panama), and to possibly to visit the WYD 2019 Vocations Center.