



Diocese of Gary



WYD
SEOUL
2027



57



WYD Seoul

TAKE COURAGE!
I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD.
JOHN 16:33

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Official Prayer for World Youth Day Seoul 2027

Loving Lord of all young people,

we thank you for inviting us into your infinite love and mercy.

Our Father, we entrust ourselves to you.

May young people everywhere be comforted in the embrace of your Church, and come to share deeply in the joy of communion and unity.

Lord Jesus Christ, you overcome the world, both now and forever.

May all people discover the hope that lies in your call to take courage, realizing that the cross of love and forgiveness is the true victory over the world.



WYD Seoul

TAKE COURAGE!

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Official Prayer for World Youth Day Seoul 2027

Oh Holy Spirit, Flame of Love,

by your wonderous hand you have sown the seeds of faith in Korea.

Kindle the flame of the Korean martyrs' faith in our hearts, making us into disciples who live out the gospel of peace, love, and truth.

Lord, we pray that through this pilgrim journey of World Youth Day we may listen to each other, discern your will, and become a synodal Church, walking together with all of God's people. Amen.

Our Lady of mercy and peace,
pray for us.

Holy patrons of World Youth Day Seoul 2027,
pray for all young people.

On the Pilgrim Road

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What is World Youth Day?

- Founded by St. Pope John Paul II in 1986
- A global gathering of young Catholics
- Hosted by a different country every few years
- Bringing together young people, bishops, priests, religious sisters and brothers, and the Holy Father to celebrate their Catholic faith together.
- Each year, there is a different theme from scripture

What happens at WYD?

- Catechesis
- Cultural exchanges
- Confession
- Stations of the Cross
- Prayer Vigil/Eucharistic Adoration
- Final Mass

Did you know?
The Church celebrates young people each year on the Feast of Christ the King during the Global Celebration of Young People (which is also called World Youth Day)

Who will attend

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Young Adults

Young Adults aged 18-35 year olds, from across the world

The name "World Youth Day" can be confusing. Internationally, young adults are called "youth." In the USA, youth describes people who are still in middle or high school. WYD is intended for young adults. WYD is also a week long celebration, not just one day!

The Holy Father

Pope Leo will be there!

Clergy

Bishop McClory and some of our own priests will also attend

Religious Brothers and Sisters

Religious from all walks of life will be there.





Why South Korea?

- One of the only Churches founded by laypeople before missionaries
- Strong witness of martyrdom
- St. Andrew Kim Taegon, first Korean priest ordained
- Rapid modern growth
- Deep devotional culture

Why Seoul?

- Capital of South Korea
- About half the size of LA, but way more populated
- Population: 9,350,995
- Catholics make up about 16.3% of the population
- K-Culture has been widely spreading
 - music
 - beauty products
 - electronics
 - drama



What is a pilgrimage?

- A sacred journey, fostering a deeper relationship with God
- Praying with feet
- Stepping out of our ordinary life to enter our relationship with God
- Encountering God through the people you meet
- Sacrificing comfort or distractions to draw closer to God
- Openness to God calling you

A pilgrimage...

- is not a vacation
- is not a tourism trip
- is not a passive experience
- is not always easy
- is a way of encountering Christ and our neighbors in a new way

Schedule*

FRIDAY, JULY 30, 2027

Depart Chicago

We leave Chicago for our long journey to Seoul!

**Our itinerary is still being fully developed. There might be some slight changes in the future depending on scheduling events.*



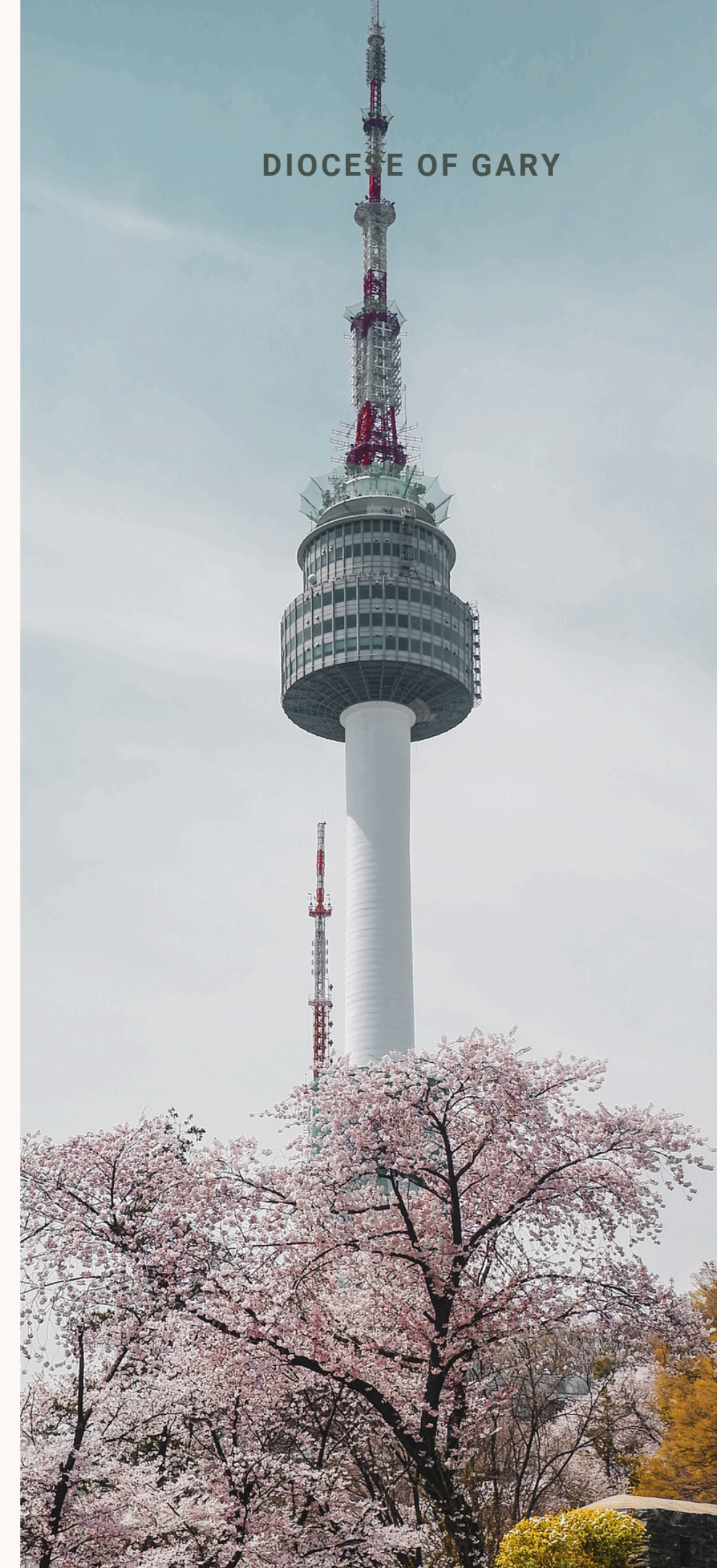
Schedule*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

Arrive in Seoul

Our first day in Seoul will be settling into our home for the week, exploring the city on our own, and celebrating Mass together.

**Our itinerary is still being fully developed. There might be some slight changes in the future depending on scheduling events.*



Schedule*

MONDAY, AUGUST 2

Explore historical sites

On our itinerary, we will have the opportunity to visit some historical and cultural sites in or around Seoul, including the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Gyeongbokgung palace, Namsan Park, and possibly Lotte World.

**Our itinerary is still being fully developed. There might be some slight changes in the future depending on scheduling events.*



Schedule*

TUESDAY, AUGUST 3

Visit Myeong-dong Cathedral and Opening Mass

World Youth Day officially begins on Tuesday! We will visit the Myeong-dong Cathedral (Cathedral of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception), the Cathedral for the Archdiocese of Seoul.

Later in the evening, we will attend the opening Mass for WYD, hosted by the local diocese.

**Our itinerary is still being fully developed. There might be some slight changes in the future depending on scheduling events.*



Schedule*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 4

Morning Catechesis

Wednesday-Friday mornings are opportunities to attend catechesis events at various locations around the city.

Afternoon Activities

Explore the city by attending musical performances, hear talks, seeing art exhibits, meet other young adults, and so much more!

Evening Activity

Typically, there is no large event on Wednesday evening. Often the USCCB will host a gathering for pilgrims from the USA

**Our itinerary is still being fully developed. There might be some slight changes in the future depending on scheduling events.*



Schedule*

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5

Morning Catechesis

Wednesday-Friday mornings are opportunities to attend catechesis events at various locations around the city.

Afternoon Activities

Explore the city by attending musical performances, hear talks, seeing art exhibits, meet other young adults, and so much more!

Evening Activity

Welcoming the Holy Father! We will welcome Pope Leo as he arrives in Seoul and hear him address the crowd for the first time.

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Schedule*

FRIDAY, AUGUST 6

Morning Catechesis

Wednesday-Friday mornings are opportunities to attend catechesis events at various locations around the city.

Afternoon Activities

Explore the city by attending musical performances, hear talks, seeing art exhibits, meet other young adults, and so much more!

Evening Activity

Stations of the Cross with Pope Leo

**Our itinerary is still being fully developed. There might be some slight changes in the future depending on scheduling events.*



Schedule*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7

Pilgrimage to Vigil Site

We will walk with the other pilgrims to the location of the Vigil prayer site.

Typically, this is a large open air area. The prayer vigil is typically Eucharistic Adoration with reflections by the Holy Father.

We will sleep out under the stars.

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Schedule*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 8

Closing Mass

In the morning, we will wake up and attend the closing liturgy from our vigil spot.

After Mass, we will make our way back to our accommodations and attend dinner together.

**Our itinerary is still being fully developed. There might be some slight changes in the future depending on scheduling events.*



Schedule*

MONDAY, AUGUST 9

Departure Day

We will depart our hotel and make our way back to the USA.

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Japan Pre-WYD Option*

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MONDAY, JULY 26-SUNDAY, AUGUST 1

Before traveling to World Youth Day in Seoul, pilgrims have the opportunity to journey through Japan, walking in the footsteps of hidden Christians and modern witnesses of peace.

- Tokyo
 - Arrival and opening Mass
 - Visit to the Imperial Palace Gardens
 - Welcome dinner and rest
- Nagasaki & Hirado
 - Mass at the Twenty-Six Martyrs Memorial Church
 - Visit to Oura Cathedral, where Hidden Christians revealed their faith after 250 years underground
 - Pilgrimage to historic churches in Hirado
 - Martyrdom sites honoring those who died for Christ
- Unzen & Shimabara
 - Memorial to Christians martyred in the Unzen hot springs
 - Hara Castle ruins (site of the Shimabara Rebellion)
 - Witness to the perseverance of persecuted believers
- Urakami & Peace Sites
 - Mass at Urakami Cathedral, rebuilt after the atomic bomb
 - Nagasaki Peace Park & Atomic Bomb Museum
 - Visit to the home and tomb of Dr. Takashi Nagai, a Catholic physician and witness to forgiveness



Some things to keep in mind

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Challenges

- Crowds
- Heat/humidity
- Lots of walking
- Language barriers
- Limited sleep
- Traveling with others

Joys

- Radical encounters with Christ
- Lifelong friendships
- Seeing the “big Church”
- Praying with the Pope
- Vocations
- Deep peace and joy



Why go as a Diocese?

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Diocesan Pilgrimage

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Preparation

We will host formation meetings, pray together, learn about the pilgrimage, and grow in community.

During WYD

We will pray together, reflect with each other, and share experiences.

Coming Back Home

We will “unpack” together and work to share our story with those back home.

Logistics



**Dube Travel cannot guarantee pricing until all components have been paid in full, and airline tickets have been issued. All land prices for hotels and services in South Korea have been confirmed and contracted, however are subject to won – dollar conversion until paid in full. Airlines do reserve the right to add fuel surcharges based on current oil pricing at the time of ticketing. Due to this, Dube Travel does maintain the right to adjust pricing accordingly and as needed based on any warranted circumstance.*

Dates

Japan Option: July 26-August 1

Seoul Pilgrimage: July 30-August 9

Cost

\$5000

Japan option is an additional \$1500

Included in the price:

- Cost of the flight and hotel transfers
- Introduction City Tour of Seoul
- Visit to DMZ
- Hotels (double occupancy, breakfast included)
- Welcome and farewell dinners
- Services of Dube travel
- Cost of the WYD registration package (most meals are included in Seoul)
- Government and hotel taxes
- Most meals

Deposit and Payment Information

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A deposit of \$500 per person is due upon registration.

Payment Schedule:

- \$500 per person due: May 15, 2026
- \$500 per person due: September 15, 2026
- \$500 per person due: December 15, 2027
- \$700 per person due: March 15, 2027

Final Balance is due MAY 15, 2027

While you can register at any time, we ask that you register by this summer to help with planning purposes.

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Ideas for Fundraising

The Diocese of Gary will be working on raising funds for transportation to and from the airport as well as a t-shirt for the pilgrimage.

We highly encourage you to work with your parish for personal fundraising.

Going solo? **Work with other pilgrims and your parish** to fundraise together.

Fundraising Ideas

- Donor Letters
- Sponsor a mile campaign
- Second collection at the parish
- Envelope Fundraiser (not collection base)

Donors can give directly online.

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Registration is Open

www.garyoyya.org/wyd

Any Questions?

Contact Vicky Hathaway
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