



Archdiocese
of Vancouver

World Youth Day 2019 Preparation and Information



"I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word"
Luke 1:38

January 22-27, 2019

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Introduction to World Youth Day 2019

History

World Youth Day is an annual event that began in 1986 evolving from similar events in 1984 and 1985. The event is celebrated every year at the local diocesan level; however, it is the international event that happens every two to three years that draws the young people from around the world together to meet with the Pope.

The first World Youth Day was held in Rome, Italy in 1986. Subsequent international WYDs have been held in Buenos Aires, Argentina (1987); Santiago de Compostela, Spain (1989); Czestochowa, Poland (1991); Denver, USA (1993); Manila, Philippines (1995); Paris, France (1997); Rome, Italy (2000); Toronto, Canada (2002); Cologne, Germany (2005); Sydney, Australia (2008); Madrid, Spain (2011), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2013), and most recently in Krakow, Poland (2016)

The 34th World Youth Day will take place in Panama city, Panama from January 22-27, 2019.

Themes

The theme for the 34th World Youth Day 2019 (international) is:

“I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word”
Luke 1:38

The other themes leading up to 2019 are:

32nd World Youth Day, 2017 (diocesan level)

“The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name (Lk 1:49)

33rd World Youth Day, 2018 (diocesan level)

“Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God” (*Lk: 1:30*)

To see all World Youth Day messages, visit the Vatican website:

<http://www.vatican.va/gmg/documents/index.html>

Website Links

The internet and in particular social networking sites, **will be *the way of gathering information***, registering and preparing for World Youth Day 2019:

- Visit the official website of World Youth Day 2019: www.panama2019.pa
- Salt & Light’s World Youth Day Central Page: www.wydcentral.org. (A source of information for Canadian WYD groups)
- **Leaders** should continue to watch for updates and local information on the Archdiocese of Vancouver WYD page: www.rcav.org/wyd

- **Pilgrims** can best connect to local information regarding World Youth Day by visiting the Archdiocese of Vancouver Facebook page:
www.facebook.com/vanwyd
- **Follow** @vanWYD on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook leading up to and during World Youth Day 2019 for updates

Days in the Diocese: likely January 17-21, 2019

World Youth Day Panama 2019 will most likely be preceded by a week called Days in the Diocese or “Missionary Week.” It will take place throughout Central America before hundreds of thousands of pilgrims arrive for the global youth event.

Days in the Diocese aims to give young people the chance to participate in spiritual activities, works of solidarity with local communities, as well as missionary and cultural events.

Families will provide hospitality for the young people taking part in the Days in the Diocese to give them a more authentic experience of what life is like locally.

Host City/Diocese

Groups from Vancouver will not be assigned to one particular city or diocese in Central America. It is up to each group to choose a city/diocese that best meets their needs.

World Youth Day Schedule

Monday, January 21

Arrival in Panama City

- On Monday, January 21, pilgrims and groups registered in WYD will be able to collect their accreditation and backpacks in the places indicated by the organization.

Tuesday, January 22

WYD Opening Mass

- World Youth Day begins with a Mass

Youth Festival

- The first activities of the WYD cultural program include concerts, exhibitions, displays, guided visits to museums, plays, plus the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation, etc.

Wednesday, January 23

Catechesis sessions

- WYD pilgrims, organized by linguistic groups, will have catechesis sessions with bishops from all over the world. The sessions will take place in churches, schools, auditoriums, and sports centres in Panama.

Youth Festival

Thursday, January 24

Catechesis sessions

Papal Welcome

- Pilgrims will welcome the Holy Father with a solemn Welcome Ceremony.

Youth Festival

Friday, January 25

Catechesis sessions

Way of the Cross

Friday's Youth Festival

Saturday, January 26

Pilgrimage Walk and Vigil

- Pilgrims arrive at a different location for the Vigil and Closing Mass. Meanwhile, different activities will take place on the stage: testimonies of young people, musical interpretations, prayers to the Virgin, etc., to prepare for the Vigil.

Vigil with the Pope

- The Pope will arrive and Eucharistic adoration will begin. There will likely be an address by the Holy Father.

Overnight

- WYD pilgrims will spend the night outdoors.

Sunday, January 27

Closing Mass

- The Pope will concelebrate Mass with thousands of bishops and priests, and the Holy Father will announce the hosting city where the next World Youth Day will be held.

World Youth Day Logo



LOGO

(MEANING)

The design is full of meaning. The Panama Canal appears as a symbol of the way that pilgrims travel to Jesus guided by Mary. The cross of the pilgrim is also showed. The dots contain two different meanings: they are the crown of the Virgin, but also represent the pilgrims who are on their way to God.



PANAMA CANAL



SILHOUETTE OF PANAMA



THE PILGRIM CROSS



SILHOUETTE OF THE VIRGIN MARY



CROWN OF THE VIRGIN (5 CONTINENTS)

World Youth Day Symbols

The Cross



It is known as the "Holy Year Cross", the "Jubilee Cross", the "WYD Cross", and the "Pilgrim Cross". Many call it the "Youth Cross" as it was given by Pope John Paul II to young people to take around the world to any place at any time. It was the Holy year of the Redemption (1983-1984). Pope John Paul II felt that there should be a cross - the symbol of our faith - near the main altar in Saint Peter's

Basilica where it could be seen by everyone. A large wooden Cross, 3.8 meters high, was placed there according to the Holy Father's desire.

At the end of the Holy Year, after the Pope had closed the Holy Door, he entrusted that Cross to the youth of the world, represented by the young people from the San Lorenzo Youth Centre in Rome. His words on that occasion were: "My dear young people, at the conclusion of the Holy Year, I entrust to you the sign of this Jubilee Year: the Cross of Christ! Carry it throughout the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity, and announce to everyone that only in the death and resurrection of Christ can we find salvation and redemption"(Rome, 22nd April 1984).

Since 1984, the WYD Cross set out on its journey around the world, in Europe, beyond the Iron Curtains, and to Americas, Asia, Africa and Australia, always present in the international celebration of WYD. Since 1994, WYD Cross has a journey in dioceses of the host-country of WYD.

The Icon of Our Lady



In 2003, Pope John Paul II entrusted to the youth another symbol of faith to be taken all over the world with the Cross: the *Icon of Our Lady, Salus Populi Romani*. This icon is a copy of a venerated icon in Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome (the first and the largest basilica in Rome dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary). "From now on it will accompany the World Youth Days, together with the Cross. Behold, your Mother! It will be a sign of Mary's motherly presence close to young people who are called, like the Apostle John, to welcome her into their lives." (Angelus, 18th World Youth Day, 13 April 2003).

Information on *Salus Populi Romani* can be found by visiting: <http://campus.udayton.edu/mary/meditations/saluspr.html>

World Youth Day Patrons and Intercessors

More details to come.



OFICIAL PRAYER

WORLD YOUTH DAY PANAMA 2019

Merciful Father, You call us to live our lives as a way of salvation. Help us to recall the past with gratitude, to embrace the present with courage and to build the future with hope.

Lord Jesus, our friend and brother, thank you for looking upon us with love. Let us listen to your voice as it resonates in the hearts of each one with the strength and light of the Holy Spirit.

Grant us the grace of being a Church that goes forth with vibrant faith and a youthful face to communicate the joy of the Gospel. May we help to build up the kind of society we long for, one where there is fairness and fellowship.

We pray for the Pope and the bishops; for young people; for all those who will take part in World Youth Day in Panama and for those who are preparing to welcome them.

Our Lady of Antigua, Patroness of Panama, help us to pray and live with generosity like yours: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38).

AMEN.

A part of Young Adult Ministry

Since World Youth Day is geared towards young adults between the ages of 18 and 35, a parish should focus on a plan to outreach, evangelize, catechize, and bring them into community and leadership within the parish with the goal of drawing them into a deeper personal relationship with Christ. By incorporating the WYD experience within the context of a parish's ministry for young adults, the WYD experience will be a fuller and richer experience for the individual while connecting them to a local faith community.

As you may be aware and as the research suggests, reaching this generation will take extra efforts on our part. We should encourage the Catholic young adults already connected in their faith and community to go on this journey, but also reach those who could benefit from this experience. We know of many stories where many young Catholics have had their lives changed because of their experience at WYD and this has led many to discern their vocation to priestly, religious or married life.

If you do not currently have a ministry for young adults or are looking to strengthen your current efforts, please contact the Archdiocese of Vancouver for further assistance.

Archdiocesan Travel Package

In 2016, the Archdiocese of Vancouver offered one travel package for all Vancouver parish groups, but for 2019, no archdiocesan travel package will be offered. Each parish or group wishing to attend WYD are welcome to join a prepackaged plan or customize one on their own. We have two packages from different travel companies available for your reference.

WYD Group Leader

It is important that there be a leader assigned who will be responsible for the parish's WYD group. This person will coordinate the parish efforts which will include planning the logistics, catechesis, and other preparation details for WYD. They will also serve as a liaison between the parish and the archdiocese regarding WYD matters. Some qualities the group leader should have include previous travel experience (preferably attended a previous WYD), good communication and interpersonal skills, coordinating abilities, financial management skills, ability to handle stress, and a passionate and faithful Catholic life.

Beginning in January of 2018, we will offer workshops through the Formation Institutes to train WYD group leaders in how to prepare a parish group for World Youth Day. Topics will include: forming a group, organizing faith formation days, creating a budget, and raising funds.

WYD Registration

Registration usually begins one year before the start of WYD. We expect online registration to begin in January 2018.

There are a variety of options with your registration depending on your needs for accommodation and meals.

The archdiocesan **policy states that pilgrims must be at least 18 years old at the time of WYD**. Therefore, parish and school groups traveling to Panama will be young adults between the ages of 18 and 35 years old. Pilgrims over the age of 35 are welcome to attend WYD with the understanding that the catechetical sessions, talks, service opportunities, and other activities are geared towards the 18 to 35 age group. This includes minors traveling with parents or family.

Fees

Fees for WYD have not been announced yet. As in previous WYDs, you will be invited to include a voluntary nominal fee to contribute to the Solidarity Fund, which has been set up to facilitate the participation of young people from countries with economic difficulties. Past experience would suggest \$300-350 CAD per person which includes simple accommodations and meals.

Preliminary costs to budget for (approximate):

- Airline ticket: \$700 - 1,200
- WYD fee: \$100 - 400,
- Transfers/Bus/Train fees: \$100 - 300 (depending on distance/transportation mode/etc.)
- Paid Accommodations: \$500- 1,200

Accommodations

Simple Accommodations

WYD packages will include simple accommodation options. If choosing the housing option through WYD, pilgrims should be prepared to be provided with "no frills accommodation" in schools, gyms, churches, or family households. You may also expect to travel up to 1.5 hr each way by public transit to get you to/from your accommodations to the main event sites. If you are interested in hotel or hostel accommodations for your group, you should contact your travel agent or tour operator for more details. All pilgrims should bring a sleeping bag and a mat for the overnight vigil.

Paid Accommodations

You can choose a travel package with paid accommodations or choose to book your own hostel or hotel within Panama City. If you choose to do your own hostel/hotel, be prepared to book early and to pay more than the average rate for that time of the year.

Food

Food distribution methods for WYD are still to be announced, but as with any travel experience, pilgrims will be experiencing local cuisine and food. Some of the food will be familiar, some unfamiliar. It is important that food allergies or sensitivities are stated at

registration, and pilgrims should bring any medication that will assist in the event of an allergic reaction.

Security

When travelling to a foreign land, especially one that will be occupied with hundreds of thousands of people from around the world, security will be an issue. **Pilgrims should take every measure to ensure their security.**

You can access information about current travel advisories and recommendations at:
<http://www.travel.gc.ca>

Travel

All Archdiocesan pilgrims/groups are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. There are several travel agencies that have helped groups within the Archdiocese before. It helps to have someone familiar with WYD working with you. Private travel insurance is recommended.

Early indications are that the number of pilgrims travelling to Panama will be lower than normal. The Archdiocese of Vancouver will do its best to connect individuals without a parish group to an established parish group. Contact us if you will not be creating a parish group, but would like to connect to another parish group. Travel from Days in the Diocese in a host city/diocese to World Youth Day in Panama is the responsibility of each group and not the WYD Organizers.

Those wishing to have pre or post WYD tours are encouraged to discuss this with their travel agent or tour operator. There are many beautiful places to visit in Panama and surrounding countries like Costa Rica and the opportunity to take in some of the extra sights and sounds should be considered.

For more information about travel recommendations, including health advisories:
www.travel.gc.ca

For more information on Panama including language, currency, history and other useful tips, check the tourism page at www.visitpanama.com

Visa Requirements & Immunization

More info to come.

Fundraising

Many groups choose to fundraise to help with costs for WYD. We have many fundraising examples and models that have been successful for groups in past years. A challenge we like to offer is that at each of your fundraising events, involve your community as an enrichment program.

It should be clear as to **how funds will be raised, shared, and used** between all parties involved (pastor, group leader, pilgrims, parishioners).

We will offer a WYD workshop in early 2018 to share information on effective fundraising opportunities.

Archdiocesan and National WYD Apparel

The Archdiocese of Vancouver will look into creating an Archdiocesan jersey or T-shirt. As in past years, we will look into ordering a national WYD jersey or T-shirt for groups who request them.

Catechesis and Preparation

Pray, Pray, Pray! World Youth Day is a pilgrimage of faith and an incredible experience of conversion, reconciliation, and renewal for so many of those that make the journey. For this reason, we must always remember to give thanks and ask for our Lord's guidance

In addition to logistical, fundraising and social gatherings, parish and school groups should gather for faith formation and catechetical sessions to prepare adequately for this pilgrimage. Great preparation can be done by reflecting on the messages from our Holy Father with the themes of the 2017 and 2018 World Youth Days:

<http://www.vatican.va/gmg/documents/index.html>

Service projects and opportunities in the parish and civic community are also highly encouraged in preparing for WYD.

We also look forward to seeing Catechesis sessions posted on the Official World Youth Day website (www.panama2019.pa) in the future.

While we strongly encourage smaller group preparations, there will also be some opportunities for pilgrims and leaders to gather together in a larger setting.

Visit our [WYD website](#) or [WYD Facebook page](#) often for updated information and upcoming events.

World Youth Day Events and Gatherings

WYD Information Sessions

The Archdiocese of Vancouver is available to give 45-60 minute presentations for pastors, parish councils, ministry leaders and groups of interested young adults on World Youth Day and how to get your parish started. Please contact Gerard Garcia to schedule your presentation.

WYD Group Leader Meetings

There will be more frequent WYD meetings for Group Leaders to network, share, and collaborate with one another beginning in the Fall of 2017. Please contact the Archdiocese to be notified of these meetings.

Young Adult Events & Gatherings

Over the past few years, there have been many more young adult events and gatherings taking place in parishes, ministries, and other areas of the Archdiocese. We encourage you to bring your groups to these gatherings as they will supplement your preparation for WYD and connect pilgrims with other young adults. Check out the calendar of events at <http://www.rcav.org/calendar>.

World Youth Day Send-Off

The Archdiocese will organize an archdiocesan gathering in the Fall of 2018. This event will likely consist of Mass with the Archbishop, a blessing to all pilgrims, catechesis, food, and a social. More details to follow.

Post World Youth Day Gathering

The Archdiocese will organize an archdiocesan gathering in the Spring of 2019. This event may consist of Mass with the Archbishop, a few testimonies, food and a social. More details to follow.

Visit our WYD website or WYD Facebook page often for updated information and upcoming events.

Travel Agents and Tour Operators

This is a list of travel agents and tour operators that have organized packages for previous World Youth Days. The Archdiocese of Vancouver does not endorse any agency. We recommend you contact each travel group to see if they meet your needs.

Company Name	Contact Person	Website
Spirit Tours	Anne Godbout	www.spiritours.com
Tour Design	Alan Law	www.tourdesign.ca

Other Organizations :

Organization Name	Contact Person	Website
Catholic Christian Outreach		www.cco.ca

*If you know of any other travel agents, tour operators or organizations that have or will provide packages for WYD, please let the Archdiocese of Vancouver know.