



Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA
Office of Evangelization
World Youth Day 2023 Planning Resource



“Mary arose and went with haste.” (Luke 1:39)

World Youth Day 2023
Lisbon, Portugal
August 1–6, 2023

www.milarch.org

For young adult pilgrimage and
WYD planning questions, call (202) 719-3653

October 2022

Resource for U.S. military chapel groups interested in participating in the 33rd celebration of WYD in 2023.

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1.) **What is World Youth Day?**

“World Youth Day (WYD) is the gathering of young people from all over the world with the Pope. It is also a pilgrimage, a celebration of youth, an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelization for the youth world. Although its Catholic identity is clearly evident, WYD opens its doors to everyone, no matter how close to or distant from the Church they are.

Since its first edition in Rome in 1986, World Youth Day has proven to be a laboratory of faith, a place of birth for vocations to marriage and consecrated life, and an instrument for the evangelization and transformation of the Church.

It aims to provide all participants with a universal Church experience, fostering a personal encounter with Jesus Christ. It is a new stimulus to the faith, hope and charity of the entire host country community. With young people as its protagonists, World Youth Day also seeks to promote peace, unity and fraternity among peoples and nations around the world.”

– *from the World Youth Day 2023 website*

2.) **When Is World Youth Day?**

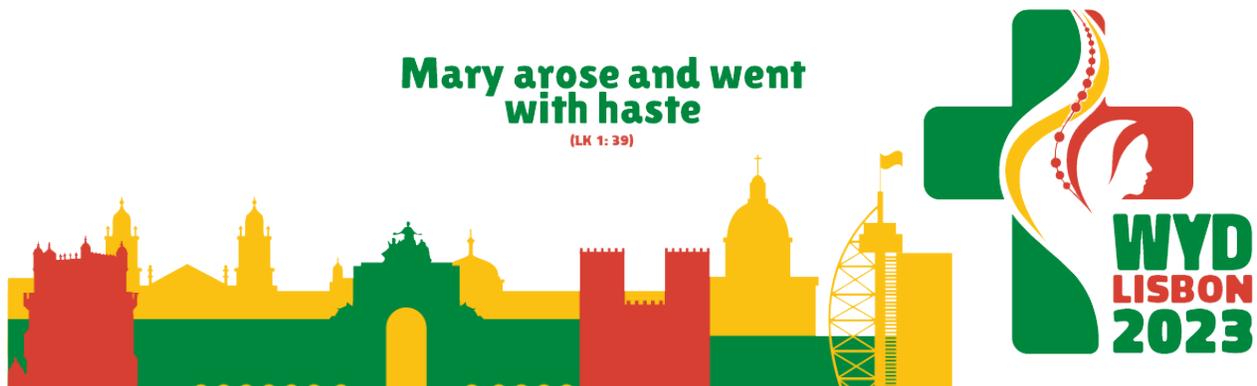
World Youth Day is a weeklong event that will be held in Lisbon, Portugal from August 1–6, 2023. "Days in the Dioceses" will take place from July 26–31, where many dioceses from Portugal will offer programs to youth as an introduction to the events leading up to the World Youth Day. A full list of participating dioceses can be found on their website: <http://www.lisboa2023.org/en>.



3.) What is the World Youth Day schedule?

A more extensive schedule of the World Youth Day events will be posted on the official website closer to the event.

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| July 26-31 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participation in Days in the Diocese programs |
| Tuesday, 8/1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lisbon Walking Tour• Opening Ceremonies and Mass |
| Wednesday, 8/2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catechesis Sessions• Youth Festival Events |
| Thursday, 8/3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catechesis Sessions• Papal Welcoming Ceremony• Youth Festival Events |
| Friday, 8/4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Catechesis Sessions• Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis)• Youth Festival Events |
| Saturday, 8/5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pilgrimage to Vigil Site• Prayer Vigil with the Holy Father |
| Sunday, 8/6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing Mass with the Holy Father• Return to Lisbon and Departure |



4.) How do we register for World Youth Day?

Standard registration can only be done through the official Lisbon 2023 [website](#) but is not yet available.



Praca do Comercio, Lisbon

5.) Important considerations

Registration

U.S. military chapel groups that register as their own group are encouraged to list their group under the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA. The AMS Office of Evangelization will receive a list of participants that register this way from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. This will enable us to provide your group leader with updates and information related to potential plans for a gathering of military pilgrims. The group leader (primary contact) is the person coordinating your group trip. He/she is responsible for registration and making the appropriate payments for all participants.

Minimum Age

The official ages for participation in World Youth Day are 16-30. The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA expects military chapel groups to adhere to the minimum age requirement set by the World Youth Day Committee. See the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops WYDUSA [frequently asked questions](#).

Travel Documents

All military chapel group participants (youth, young adult and adult leaders) must travel with a U.S. passport. It is strongly recommended that US military chapel group participants also travel with their US military ID card. Group leaders are highly encouraged to register their group travel plans with the U.S. Embassy in Lisbon, <https://pt.usembassy.gov/embassy-consulate/lisbon/>.

Adult Leaders

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA strongly recommends that military chapel groups bring one adult chaperone (age 21 or older) for every five youth participants between the ages of 16-17 years old. Traveling in small groups to the activities during WYD makes it much easier to navigate the crowds rather than trying to keep the whole group together all the time. Having enough adult chaperones makes this possible. Good and constant communication also helps to keep the whole group well informed.

For example, if you register 23 youth between the ages of 16-17 you ought to also bring 5 adult chaperones. World Youth Day is a long week of prayer, catechesis and celebrations. It is easier to travel in smaller groups (with adult chaperones for those under 18 years of age) and gather together in the evening to reflect upon the experiences of the day. This also presents an opportunity for prayer and updates regarding important information about the upcoming day.

Simple Accommodation

Many dioceses from the United States participate in World Youth Day by making all of their arrangements through a travel agency or tour company. These package deals include housing in hotels. One of the purposes of World Youth Day is to engage and connect with other cultures. Simple accommodation is also offered, which dramatically reduces the total cost of participation in WYD. Simple accommodation includes small groups of people staying in a family home or larger groups staying in a church, hostel, or school. While the conditions may be rustic, the experience is rich. Consider simple accommodation as an option for your group. This would

mean that you would only need to make flight arrangements and register your group for WYD (unless you plan to visit other places throughout Europe where accommodation would be necessary).

6.) Fundraising

WYD 2023 registration pricing is not available at the moment. International travel is expensive. Planning for fundraising in your local community can help to significantly reduce the total per person participant cost. As of August 2015, the expected registration cost of WYD 2016 participant registration with simple accommodation was expected to be below \$190.00 U.S. dollars. Participant costs for WYD 2016 include the registration fee, roundtrip flight, spending money as well as any additional travel outside of Kraków that your group plans.

The most inexpensive way to attend World Youth Day is to sign up for the Simple Accommodation Option (see above – Important Considerations). Often the most expensive part of WYD includes the transportation costs. This cost will be significant for those traveling from the United States and Asia. Once you are in Lisbon and have picked up your registration materials you will have a public transportation pass that will enable you to ride the trains and other modes of public transport.

Fundraising Suggestions

- a) Consult your Catholic Chaplain about local fundraising regulations and possibilities.
- b) Seek input from the other parish organizations about raising funds. Ask for their assistance to help support participants from your community.
- c) Ask potential participants for ideas they have about fundraising.
- d) Seek information about grants from your local community. Spouses clubs, community organizations and church groups such as the Knights of Columbus may offer some sort of assistance.
- e) The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA is a Home Missions diocese. In the past the Home Missions committee has granted a small amount of funds to encourage participation in World Youth Day. Should we receive those funds again an application form will be made available online at www.milarch.org.



7.) Links and resources

The official World Youth Day 2023 website:

<http://www.lisboa2023.org/en/>

World Youth Day Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/worldyouthday>

World Youth Day message from Pope Francis:

<http://www.laityfamilylife.va/content/laityfamilylife/en/news/2022/il-santo-padre-ai-giovani--ho-lo-sguardo-rivolto-ad-agosto-2023-.html>

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Department of Family, Laity, Women and Youth web site:

<http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/>

The Archdiocese for Military Services, USA web site:

<http://www.milarch.org>

The Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

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Official Prayer for World Youth Day 2023

Our Lady of the Visitation, you who left in haste towards the mountain to meet Elizabeth, lead us also to meet all those who await us to deliver them the living Gospel: Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord!

We will go in a hurry, with no distraction or delay, but with readiness and joy.

We will go peacefully, because those who take Christ take peace, and well doing is the best wellbeing.

Our Lady of the Visitation, with your inspiration, this World Youth Day will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we take, as you once did.

Make it a time of testimony and sharing, fraternization, and giving thanks, each of us looking for the others who always wait.

With you, we will continue on this path of gathering, so that our world will gather as well, in fraternity, justice and peace.

Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation, to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in the love of the Spirit!