

**WYD 2008 Sydney, Australia**  
**Office of Catholic Youth, Archdiocese of Toronto**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**Preparation & Formation**

**Q. What is World Youth Day?**

Through the WYD08 experience, young people from throughout the world will make a pilgrimage in faith, meet one another, and experience hospitality and the love of God. Young people will have an opportunity to rediscover their baptismal calling and the centrality of the sacraments of the Eucharist and reconciliation, and so discover a new apostolic zeal to witness more fully the Gospel in the modern world.

**Q. Where is World Youth Day 2008 being held?**

WYD08 will be held in Sydney, Australia. The first European explorers called Australia "The Southern Land of the Holy Spirit." In Ecclesia in Oceania Pope John Paul II wrote: "The Church in Oceania has been endowed by the Holy Spirit with many gifts. For all the great diversity of cultures and traditions, she is one in faith, hope and charity, one in Catholic doctrine and discipline, one in the communion of the Most Holy Trinity. In this communion, all are called to live the life of Christ in the midst of their daily activities, to show forth the wonderful fruits of the Spirit (cf. Gal 5:22- 23) and to be witnesses to God's love and mercy in the world." (n36)

In many ways Sydney can be described as 'the capital' of the Oceania region. It is the largest city in the leading country in the region: a country to which many young people would be attracted and which many parents would feel confident to send their children. It is a beautiful city built on a stunning harbour, with a temperate climate and excellent facilities for major events, which were showcased at the 2000 Olympic Games. Sydney is a harbour city with many bridges, including most famously the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The beaches and waterways are known throughout the world. St Mary's Cathedral is the spiritual home of Sydney's Catholic community. It is the seat of the Archbishop of Sydney, and stands on the site of the first Catholic Chapel in Australia. Constructed in local sandstone, the "Gothic Revival" style of its architecture is reminiscent of the great medieval cathedrals of Europe. St Mary's is not only a great legacy from the past, however: it is vital part of the present spiritual and cultural life of the city and the nation. The Cathedral is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of Immaculate Mother of God, Help of Christians. (source [www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org))

**Q. Will we be participating in Days in the Dioceses?**

Yes. Days in the Dioceses is a period leading up to World Youth Day where pilgrims have the option of visiting a neighbouring diocese before WYD. After consultation with youth ministers across the Archdiocese, and other stakeholders, it was decided that we would participate in the days of encounter. We hope to be hosted by the Archdiocese of Melbourne for this experience. Melbourne is a large, multicultural city about 870 km from Sydney on the country's south shore. Some of the local sites of interest are: the Great Ocean Road – Twelve Apostles; federation Square; Royal Botanic Gardens; Queen Victoria Markets; and South Bank Precinct.

## **Q. What is the age range for this pilgrimage?**

The Australian World Youth Day office is asking that participants be between 16-35 years of age, with a suggested age of 18+. WYD is a pilgrimage and is not for young children, those who are unable to walk a minimum of 10 km each day or have problems with extreme heat or large crowds. It is also an experience that explores mature catechetical themes. OCY will focus its activities for those 18-35 years of age and the minimum age for the pilgrimage will be 18.

## **Q. When does the WYD experience begin?**

Your formation and preparation begins the day you submit your initial deposit to the Office of Catholic Youth. The Archdiocesan Delegation will have a series of 4 Delegate meetings (3 prior and 1 post WYD), beginning in 2007, along with special gatherings for group leaders. Attendance at all delegate sessions will be mandatory. Delegates should also be involved in local formation at the parish or regional level, following the Pastoral Program outlined by the OCY.

## **Registration & Packages**

### **Q. Who is organizing the travel packages?**

Tour Design is a fully licensed tour operator owned and operated by Mrs. Frances Bulley, Business Identification Number 121061238, Travel Industry Council of Ontario (TICO) registration 50011108. It is important for us to work with a tour operator who is registered with TICO as this means that all monies we collect are fully insured. Tour Design has worked with the Archdiocese of Toronto and other Canadian dioceses on World Youth Day 1997 (Paris), WYD 2000 (Rome), WYD 2002 (Toronto), and WYD 2005 (Cologne). Tour Design is **not** an official body for WYD but a privately owned tour company assisting those traveling to Sydney with arrangements that include paid accommodation. For info on Tour Design, visit: [www.tourdesign.ca](http://www.tourdesign.ca).

### **Q. What sort of accommodations can I expect? Will we be staying in people's homes or schools?**

Each parish or organization has to discern what pilgrimage experience will work best for them. When transporting a large group of hundreds of young people, the Office of Catholic Youth has found that moving together and staying in one location makes sense in the host city. It allows all pilgrims to experience WYD on the same level. We are together to process the experience through faith formation and provide common activities for a full sense of pilgrimage. For this reason we will be staying in standard accommodation in Sydney, i.e. hostels. Meals are provided as outlined in the package details.

Currently we have reservations at a hotel in Melbourne for Days in the Dioceses. However, we are open to the possibility of simple accommodation (staying with families and in schools) if the group is interested and we are confident that we will be housed within one parish so that we can provide families at home with contact information prior to departure.

### **Q. Can I join in and do my own thing when we get there or stay after WYD to travel around Australia?**

No & Yes! All OCY WYD pilgrims will receive a detailed itinerary from the Archdiocese of Toronto. We will be flying out of Toronto and participating in activities as outlined in the package as a group. However, if you or your parish sub-group wish to stay in Australia for up to 2 months past the scheduled departure date you may.

### **Q. What do I need to do if I want to stay longer in Australia or the area?**

To extend your stay for up to 2 months past the date of departure, you must let OCY (and your sub-group leader) know and contact Doris (dto@glpworldwide.com) at Tour Design directly by December 7, 2007. She will make all the necessary arrangements. The cost for this deviation is \$100 CDN per person. The return will be extended from your final departure city before returning home. Therefore, while in Sydney, the ticket is extended in Australia. If you do not have a firm idea of when you want to return, Tour Design will book your return for 60 days past the date the group departs to travel home. If prior to this date, you wish to change the return, you will need to call the airline yourself and arrange for a different return date. There will not be any change in fare as long as space is available in the same class as the ticket is booked. You will be responsible for making all accommodation and travel arrangements that are necessary for any portion of your stay that is extended past the group departure date.

### **Q. Do I need a passport?**

Yes. You must have a passport that is valid for at least 6 months after your departure from your last gateway city.

### **Q. Do I need a visa to go to Australia?**

Yes. Everyone will need a visa to go to Australia and Tour Design will take care of issuing the visa for you. In order to do this, we need a copy of your valid passport (picture page).

### **Q. When do I have to pay, how late can I make changes, tell me all about the registration process. I hear I have to make a deposit of \$500 by October 20, 2006? That seems early.**

We need an initial deposit to secure space and make proper arrangements to book our air and ground requirements in Australia. You can imagine how many people are trying to secure space for WYD08.

## **Registration Process for World Youth Day 2008**

**September 25 – October 20, 2006:** The OCY will begin accepting registration and deposits of \$500 CDN per pilgrim, on a first-come, first served basis. We will need an individual name for each \$500 deposit, i.e. groups cannot give \$5000 for "10 people." We strongly encourage pilgrims to submit passport information with their initial deposit to ease the registration process and to allow us to flag any potential visa issues that might crop up. The \$500 per pilgrim deposit is due October 20, 2006 or earlier if the allocated spaces for OCY have been booked, whichever comes first. This deposit is non-refundable.

**March 23, 2007:** Second deposit of \$1000 is due. Only \$500 of this deposit is refundable.

**December 7, 2007:** Those wishing to extend their stay in Australia should have notified Tour Design and OCY by this time. Those who have not submitted passport information should do so by this date.

**March 21, 2008:** Final payment due. Final date for name changes without penalty.

## How to Register

Pilgrims need to use the official OCY World Youth Day 2008 registration form (available through the OCY) to secure a space. Additional health forms and appropriate documentation will be distributed after initial deposits are received. The official form details payment options including cheque and credit card. Housing lists and other information will be coordinated in 2008.

*\*\*Please note: The pricing given does not include credit card charges. The price quoted is based on payment by cheque. If you wish to use your credit card, a 3% fee will be automatically added to the transaction amount.\*\**

## Contact information:

A special e-mail address – [wyd@ocytoronto.org](mailto:wyd@ocytoronto.org) -- has been established to field inquiries regarding the Archdiocese of Toronto's WYD08 Pilgrimage. You can also call us at 416-599-7676.

## Helpful website links:

[www.wyd2008.org](http://www.wyd2008.org) - Official World Youth Day 2008 website

[www.vatican.va](http://www.vatican.va) -- Vatican website

[www.ocytoronto.org](http://www.ocytoronto.org) - Office of Catholic Youth, Archdiocese of Toronto website

[www.footprintswestend.com.au](http://www.footprintswestend.com.au) -- Footprints Hostel, accommodation in Sydney

[www.bighostel.com](http://www.bighostel.com) -- Big Hostel, accommodation in Sydney

[www.travelodge.com.au](http://www.travelodge.com.au) - For Travelodge Southgate in Melbourne