

Resource 2I: 2007 World Youth Day

Liturgical Planning Guide for

October 28, 2007

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C

What Is World Youth Day?

In 1985, Pope John Paul II invited young people from around the world to join him in Rome on Palm Sunday to observe the United Nations' International Year of Youth. At this gathering, the Holy Father initiated World Youth Day. In addition to the annual celebration of World Youth Day, the pope invites young people from around the world to gather with him approximately every other year for the international gathering of World Youth Day.

World Youth Day is a day to celebrate youth (younger and older teens), in all of their diversity and goodness, and to encourage these young people to lead the church both now and into the future. The bishops of the United States, wanting to place full attention on the youth of our nation, voted to move the celebration in the United States from Palm Sunday to the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time, this year celebrated on October 28. During this weekend, parishes are invited to bless their young people, involve them in all aspects of the Mass, affirm their leadership, and invite them to use their gifts in service to the church and the world.

A Message from the Pope . . .

Each year, the pope prepares a message to the young people of the world. The 2007 statement can be found online at www.nfcym.org./resources/yymr or www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/messages/youth/documents/hf_ben-xvi_mes_20070127_youth_en.html.

Suggested Bulletin Announcements

The Weekend Prior to World Youth Day

Next weekend we will be honoring our young people at all Masses as we celebrate World Youth Day, an annual celebration of youth begun by Pope John Paul II in 1985. Please join us in prayer and affirmation as we recognize the gifts of our youth and encourage their full and active participation in the life of our faith community. (Add specific details of what will happen at and/or after all Masses for the youth.)

The Weekend of World Youth Day

This weekend we give thanks for our youth and the many gifts and blessings they bring to our parish community as we celebrate World Youth Day, an annual celebration begun by Pope John Paul II in 1985. We ask for your ongoing prayers of support for each of them, their families, and those who minister to and with them along their journey of faith. (Include any parish plans or announcements about the youth.)

Liturgical Recommendations for Parishes Celebrating World Youth Day

- One of the primary goals of youth ministry is to involve the whole parish in ministering to and with the young people. Therefore, it is recommended that young people be affirmed and celebrated at each of the Masses during World Youth Day rather than highlighting them at just one of the weekend liturgies.
- Invite young people and the adults who work with them to serve in the various lay ministries connected with each Mass.
- Invite an older youth or two to offer a witness as to their journey of faith before Mass begins or after communion.
- If World Youth Day cannot be celebrated on the 30th Sunday due to conflicts with other scheduled events, select another weekend at which the young people and their faith journeys may be celebrated.

Suggested General Intercessions for World Youth Day

- *That our young people may respond to the call to ministry and leadership within their parish and school communities, we pray to the Lord . . .*
- *In thanksgiving for all those who help to form, empower, and support our young people in their ongoing journey of faith, we pray to the Lord . . .*
- *That we may have the courage and conviction to discover Jesus Christ as the way, the truth and the life, we pray to the Lord . . .*

Recommended Music for Mass

These youth-friendly songs are selected for their connection to the readings for the 30th Sunday. Consider using one or more in the Mass, as a call to worship, or a communion meditation.

- *Jesus Christ, You Are My Life*
Marco Frisina
OCP
- *Christo Sáname/Jesus, Heal Me*
Estela García-López
OCP
- *We Will Follow*
Dan Brennan, Ken Canedo, Jesse Manibusan
spiritandsong.com
- *Jesus Christ, Yesterday, Today, and Forever*
Suzanne Toolan, SM
GIA
- *At the Name of Jesus*
Ed Bolduc
WLP
- *At the Name of Jesus*
Christopher Walker
OCP
- *Alive in Christ Jesus*
David Hass
GIA



Blessing of Youth

This blessing may be prayed over all the young people in the assembly after the Communion Prayer.

Lord of the Way,
We ask your blessing upon our young people.
May they come to know and share the wonder and awe that is within them
as they grow in wisdom, knowledge, and understanding.

Bless their openness and enthusiasm,
Strengthen and support the many good works they do.

Challenge and provoke them along their journey of faith as you guide them to understand their true calling in this world.

In all these things, we ask your blessing upon them this day, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

A Blessing of Young Ministers and Leaders

The presider invites all young people involved in ministry and service forward as the following blessing of their senses is prayed. If the group is small, the presider may wish to actually make the sign of the cross over the senses of each person. If the group is larger, a general motion of the sign of the cross can be used.

May the Lord bless your eyes so that you see the goodness and uniqueness of God in every person.

May the Lord bless your ears to listen to the diversity of needs that exist within this community.

May the Lord bless your lips to speak the truth honestly, openly, and powerfully in all you do.

May the Lord bless your hands to reach out in compassionate service for the good of the kingdom.

Invite the entire assembly to extend their hands in solidarity as the presider prays:

God of all life,
bless these young people
whom you have called forth to serve.

Guide and sustain them in ministry
so our community will be blessed by the richness and diversity of their leadership.

Empower them to be prophetic voices of today
as they prepare to lead us into the possibilities of tomorrow.

We ask this blessing upon each of them
+ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

For more information on prayers, blessings, and music to be used for World Youth Day, as well as throughout the year, go to the NFCYM website at: www.nfcym.org/resources/yymr. You may also order this 2007 Youth Ministry Resource Manual—*Discover Jesus Christ, the Way* and *Discover Jesus Christ, the Way* prayer cards from the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry at <https://store.nfcymoffice.net/shop/pc/home.asp>.

The 2007 World Youth Day Prayer

This prayer can be placed in the pews or on prayer cards for the assembly to pray together and/or to take home and pray in solidarity with the young people throughout the country.

Discover Jesus Christ, the Way

Loving God,

In our families and friends,
enemies and strangers,
let us discover Jesus Christ, the Way.
In our homes, schools, cities,
and in unfamiliar places,
let us discover Jesus Christ, our Way.

When we hurt and when we are happy,
let us discover Jesus Christ, the Way.
When confused and when self-assured,
let us discover Jesus Christ, our Way.

Through prayer and learning,
let us discover Jesus Christ, the Way.
Through community and service,
let us discover Jesus Christ, our Way.

In all we do,
In all we are,
In everyone we meet,
And everywhere we go,
let us discover Jesus Christ,
the way to you.

AMEN!