

## **World Youth Day 2016**

**WYD 2016** is an international Catholic event focused on religious faith and youth, due to be celebrated from 25 – 31 July 2016 in **Krakow**, Poland. This was announced by Pope Francis at the end of the closing Mass of World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The history of WYD goes back 31 years to 1984 when at the end of the Holy Year of Redemption over 300,000 young people from around the world responded to the invitation of Pope John-Paul II for an International Jubilee of Youth on Palm Sunday in St. Peter's Square. Again Pope John-Paul II announced the Institution of World Youth Day and invited the youth of the world to meet again in Rome for the first official WYD in 1986. Since then there have been 12 International World Youth Day celebrations in different parts of the world – Rome, Buenos Aires, Santiago de Compostela, Czestochowa, Denver, Manila, Paris, Toronto, Cologne and Sydney – all with different themes reflecting on different aspects of the Catholic faith.

The last International WYD in Toronto 2002 in which Pope John-Paul II was present he told 800,000 gathered with him:

**“When, back in 1985, I wanted to start the World Youth Days.... I imagined a *powerful moment* in which the young people of the world could meet Christ, who is eternally young, and could learn from him how to be *bearers of the Gospel to other young people*. Together with you, I praise God and give thanks to him for the gift bestowed on the Church through the World Youth Days, millions of young people have taken part, and as a result have become better and more committed Christian witnesses.”**

Pope John-Paul II left a marvellous legacy for the youth in his institution of WYD, which Pope Benedict XVI faithfully continued and now Pope Francis continues the tradition and is inviting the youth of the world to meet with him in **Krakow**, Poland in 2016.

WYD 2016 will be particularly significant, as **Krakow** was the home of St. John-Paul II. All the Catholic dioceses in Poland will be supporting this event and with great joy are ready to welcome the young pilgrims from around the world **July 25 – 31 July 2016.**

The three figures of the WYD 2016 will be: The image of the Merciful Jesus, St. Faustina and St. John-Paul II. The theme chosen by Pope Francis for 2016 WYD is: **Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.** (Matt 5:7)

### **INVITATION TO THE YOUTH OF OUR LADY OF DOLOURS SERVITE CHURCH**

We ask our young people to give it some thought  
Speak to other young people of your age 17+ - 30+  
The Parish will link in with the Archdiocese of Westminster  
In the lead up there will be good preparation by the Archdiocese  
Together we can offset some of your cost by having fund raising events during the year  
Meantime let one of the Servite Friars/Priests or Sr. Clementina know you are interested