



Current Issues in Prayer

August 2023

Welcome! The Pope invites people of good will to come together and pray **that the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and give witness to the Gospel in their own lives.**



Getting started:

For a short while, I listen to the sound of my heart beating and thank God for this amazing gift of life.



Short story:

In 2013, Anthony, a Maltese guy, was attending a formation course in Argentina. His father, who was in Malta, decided to give him an unusual birthday present: a full holiday in Rio De Janeiro, where he could participate in that year's World Youth Day. Everything was paid, flights and lodging. He provided Anthony also with the contact number of a Maltese coordinator at the WYD so as to get in touch with other Maltese participants. Anthony loved adventure and he looked forward to this unexpected opportunity to explore new places and meet new people. He did not know what God had in store for him!



Part of the WYD program consisted of some catechesis, followed by a time of prayer and the celebration of the Eucharist. To his surprise, Anthony found himself enjoying the prayer experience – something he had never felt before. The Eucharist was a very joyous moment. Something new was moving inside him.

Then came the meeting with the Pope Francis at Copacabana. A number of persons gave their conversion testimonies. Among them were criminals who converted to an active faith in Christ. Many of the participants turned to God. Anthony experienced a heaviness and a sense of unworthiness. At a certain point in his address, the Pope said: "Let the Word fall on good soil!". Anthony's eyes welled up with tears and he experienced a deep healing of emotions and sinfulness. He felt he was being drawn back to God and also discovered the beauty to be found in the Church. That WYD changed his life.



Time to reflect:

Has there been a moment in my life when I had a living experience of God? What was the experience like? Do I still hold on to that decision to trust God? Am I reading the Word of God daily and letting it fall on good soil?



Let us pray:

O Lord, we entrust all the young people attending World Youth Day into your loving hands, praying that they may have a refreshing experience of You in their life.



Inspiration:

Remember that you are never alone. Christ is with you on your journey every day of your lives! Walk with him who is 'the Way, the Truth and the Life!'

Saint Pope John Paul II



Hands on:

I will participate daily in the Eucharist and spend some quiet time reading Scripture.