



THE POPE VIDEO
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



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Pope Francis hopes that World Youth Day in Lisbon will be a “seed for the world’s future”

- *In conjunction with the opening of **World Youth Day** in Lisbon, [The Pope Video](#) focuses on the fundamental role of young people in the life of the Church and the world.*
- *With the motto “Mary arose and went with haste” (Luke 1:39), **Pope Francis** will encourage the young people to follow the example of Mary to “set out on a journey, in haste, to help” others.*
- *Pope Francis entrusts to young people the task of building “a world where love is at the center, where we can sense that we are sisters and brothers.” “We are at war,” he recalls, and “in Lisbon, I would like to see a seed for the world’s future.”*

(Vatican City, 27 July 2023) – “When I go to the church in my neighborhood, I see only old people. Is the Church only for old people?” This is the question directed to Pope Francis that opens this Pope Video which coincides with World Youth Day. His response is direct: “If it becomes something for old people, it will die.... The Church needs young people so it doesn’t grow old.”

The video with the **Holy Father’s** new prayer intention, which he entrusts to the entire **Catholic Church** through the [Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network](#), and was created in collaboration with the Lisbon 2023 WYD Foundation and the **Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life**, is about young people and **World Youth Day**. Pope Francis’ message emphasizes his invitation that young people quickly take the path of bearing joyful witness to the Gospel.

The questions from young people

There is a special feature in this month’s video. **Pope Francis** responds to several young people from different continents who pose questions in various languages. Youth from the Philippines, Brazil and the Ivory Coast (members of the **Eucharistic Youth Movement**, the youth branch of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, with 1,700,000 members in 60 countries) ask Pope Francis unfiltered questions: whether the Church is just for “old people”; why he chose Mary as the theme for World Youth Day; what is the Pope’s own hope for this international meeting of young people in Portugal.

The Pope’s responses



Replying at a distance, Pope Francis' responses are quite powerful. He explains that Mary's attitude is a lesson for all her peers, for "as soon as Mary knew she was going to be the mother of God, she didn't stay there taking a selfie or showing off." Rather, "The first thing she did was to set out on a journey, in haste, to serve, to help." Later, he confides his dream "to see a seed for the world's future," a world in which love (at a time when "we are at war") and joy ("because if we Christians have no joy, we are not credible, no one will believe us") are at the center.

The event itself

According to Bishop Américo Aguiar, President of the Lisbon 2023 WYD Foundation, "the meeting is essentially a meeting of young people with the Pope, an encounter of young people with young people, and an encounter of each young person with the person of the living Christ. On this journey, I expect everything and expect nothing. Expecting everything, I hope that all of the young people will be touched by the Pope's words and that each young person has an encounter with the Lord of Life. To expect nothing is to trust totally, to give all that I have and am, expecting nothing in return. I will strive each day, but most especially in the last days, for the complete detachment of one who knows it is not possible to carry out this immense task without the efficacious presence of the Risen Jesus."

Back after the pandemic

Father João Chagas, who heads the **Youth Office for the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life**, says, "It is good to be able to pray together, to meditate on an intergenerational dialogue, a theme dear to our beloved **Pope Francis**. Already in his message to youth in 2017, he recalled, 'With good reason you want to "soar", your heart is full of great dreams, but you need the wisdom and the vision of the elderly. Spread your wings and fly, but also realize that you need to rediscover your roots and to take up the torch from those who have gone before. To build a meaningful future, you need to know and appreciate the past.' Precisely to promote this integrated culture of encounter, after the horrible experience of the pandemic, of social isolation, I hope this WYD might be an opportunity for the young people of the entire world to meet each other once again, with the hope of living in times of peace."

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network and WYD 2023

Father Frédéric Fornos S.J., International Director of the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#), highlights the presence of the pontifical work in WYD: "This month's Pope Video is one of the signs of the presence of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network in World Youth Day in Lisbon. In fact, already as of 2020, preparations for this event have



been accompanied by prayer through the [Click To Pray app](#), which is both the Pope's official prayer app and that of the meeting in Lisbon, regularly dedicating a prayer for WYD 2023 on the 23rd of each month. During the course of this event, from July 30 to August 6, Click To Pray will make available to WYD participants, and to those who cannot be physically present, but who want to accompany WYD by praying long-distance, three daily meditations in both text and audio formats, available in five languages: Spanish, Portuguese, English, Italian and French. In addition, members of the **Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM)**, our youth branch, will also be present in Lisbon. We have created a team of EYM reporters who will help EYM youth from all over the world to participate, both in their own countries through local events, and online.”

The Pope Video is possible thanks to the generous contributions of many people. You can donate by following [this link](#).

Where can you watch the video?

- [Official website of The Pope Video](#)
- [YouTube channel of The Pope Video](#)
- [Facebook page of The Pope Video](#)
- [The Pope Video on Twitter](#)
- [The Pope Video on Instagram](#)
- [The Pope on Twitter @Pontifex](#)
- [The Pope on Instagram @Franciscus](#)

About The Pope Video

The Pope Video is an official global initiative with the purpose of disseminating the Holy Father's monthly prayer intentions. It is carried out by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer). **Since 2016, The Pope Video has had more than 203 million views across all the Vatican's social networks, and is translated into more than 23 languages, receiving press coverage in 114 countries.** The videos are produced and created by The Pope Video Prayer Network team, coordinated by Andrea Sarubbi, and distributed by La Machi Communication for Good Causes. The project is sponsored by [Vatican Media](#). More information: [The Pope Video](#).

About the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is a Vatican foundation, with the mission of mobilizing Catholics through prayer and action in response to the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church. These challenges are presented in the form of prayer intentions entrusted by the Pope to the entire Church. The foundation's mission is inscribed in the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus, a mission of compassion for the world. Founded in 1844 as the Apostleship of Prayer, it is present in 89 countries, and is made up of more than 22 million Catholics. It includes a youth branch, the Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM). In December 2020, the Pope constituted this pontifical work as a Vatican Foundation and approved its new statutes. Its international director is Fr. Frédéric Fornos, SJ. For more information, visit: www.popesprayer.va.

About the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life

The Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life is entrusted with the promotion of life and the apostolate of the lay faithful, for the pastoral care of the young, the family and its mission, following God's plan, for the elderly, and for the protection and support of human life. For more information: www.laityfamilylife.va.



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WORLD YOUTH DAY (WYD) LISBON 2023

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