



World Youth Day 2016

www.wydusa.org

Local World Youth Day Alumni Gathering Guide

World Youth Day is an experience which has impacted the lives of millions of people around the world since it began in 1984. In the United States, over a half-million (500,000+) men and women have participated in an international World Youth Day gathering over that period of time, and even more than that have been affected in some way by World Youth Day, such as celebrating it stateside or participating in it through television or digital media.

Because the World Youth Day experience is so memorable and has been impactful for many men and women, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB)' Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth has developed the WYDUSA Alumni Network to connect those who have had this profound encounter with Christ and the Church to one another.

All World Youth Day alumni have a common bond of a pilgrim experience in which they encountered Jesus Christ within the family of the universal Church and the Holy Father.

After World Youth Day, every pilgrim has had to re-enter their everyday lives and try to put what they have received into practice. When alumni reflect back on these moments of re-entry into regular life, which may have seemed difficult at the time, they can now see their pilgrimage to World Youth Day as simply one step in their greater journey of faith.

An alumni is any person who has ever traveled to an international World Youth Day pilgrimage or who has fully participated in a stateside (at-home) celebration concurrent with the global event over the past three decades, from 1984 to the present. These include the following:

1984: April 15 Rome, Italy	1985: March 31 Rome, Italy	1986: March 23 Rome, Italy	1987: April 11-12 Buenos Aires, Argentina
1989: August 15-20 Santiago, Spain	1991: August 10-15 Częstochowa, Poland	1993: August 10-15 Denver, United States	1995: January 10-15 Manila, Philippines
1997: August 19-24 Paris, France	2000: August 15-20 Rome, Italy	2002: July 23-28 Toronto, Canada	2005: August 16-21 Cologne, Germany
2008: July 15-20 Sydney, Australia	2011: August 16-21 Madrid, Spain	2013: July 23-28 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	2016: July 26-31 Kraków, Poland

In addition, every celebration of Palm Sunday at the Vatican since 1984 has been dedicated to young people who make pilgrimage to Rome that day. On the Palm Sundays following the above-listed international celebrations, the World Youth Day Cross (and Marian Icon) is transferred to the next international host country. Therefore, any person who has participated in a Palm Sunday Mass with the Holy Father in Rome (since 1984) is also considered a World Youth Day alumni.

Sample Alumni Gatherings

There are many ways to gather WYDUSA alumni together in order to provide a space for past participants to meet one another, forge new friendships, and connect (or re-connect) them to Christ, the Church, and one another. For former pilgrims who have not been active in the practice of their faith lately, these encounters are ways for them to recall their earlier experience and renew their connection to Jesus and the Church.

We have provided four templates for an alumni gathering that pastoral ministers and/or alumni leaders can use to begin organizing local events. The goals for each of these gatherings are: reunion, evangelization, and community.

- **WYDUSA Alumni Evening of Reflection**
A prayerful experience that can also include a Mass.
- **WYDUSA Alumni Dinner and Networking**
A social gathering over dinner, with opportunities for conversation and sharing.
- **Welcome Home Reunion**
A way to connect alumni with WYD Kraków 2016 pilgrims on their return home.
- **WYD Kraków Watch Party**
A gathering to watch the event(s) of WYD Kraków 2016.

Some additional ideas for alumni gatherings have also been included in this guide, such as service projects, happy hours, sporting events, and more. Should you need assistance in planning these gatherings (or to share the details of your local event), contact the USCCB World Youth Day Office by calling (202) 541-3044 or email wyd@usccb.org.

Promotion and Networking Ideas

To have an effective gathering, it is important to bring together as many people in the area as possible who are World Youth Day alumni. Here are a few ways to engage and promote:

- Announce the alumni gathering at Masses for several weeks beforehand, and through personal invitations from the pastor, deacon, or pastoral staff and leaders in the community.
- Post details in parish, campus, and diocesan communications (bulletin, website, blog, email, diocesan newspaper or magazine, etc.).
- Organizers and alumni leaders can look through their social media connections (Facebook friends, Twitter followers, etc.), and make invitations to those living in their local area.
- Work with local youth, campus, or young adult ministry leaders at the parish or in the diocese to identify and invite past WYD participants.
- Send a mailed invitation to World Youth Day alumni in the community (parish, diocese, etc.).
- Make personal phone calls or pay a visit to friends, family members, or fellow parishioners who you know have attended World Youth Day in the past.
- Post the event on the national WYDUSA alumni page by emailing details to wyd@usccb.org.

WYDUSA Alumni Evening of Reflection

Basic Objective: Gather local alumni together for some time of prayer, reflection, and conversation.

Location: Catholic shrine, church, campus ministry, pastoral center, or religious community in the diocese, at the parish, on or nearby a local college campus. Ideally a religious/sacred space.

Duration: Approximately 90 minutes, followed by Mass.

Timing: This gathering can take place at any time, though it might have special resonance if held near or during the World Youth Day gathering in Kraków in late July 2016.

Preparation: Prior to this event, select one of the alumni to offer a witness to how World Youth Day impacted their life, and how it pointed them towards God's call to missionary discipleship. Bring Bibles, or invite participants to bring Bibles; arrange time at or create a sacred space (with candles, devotional images, sacramentals, etc.); set up a registration/welcome table; develop handout with information on upcoming events; assign leaders/readers for first hour programming; arrange for the celebration of Holy Mass with priest; assign liturgical roles to alumni participants or leaders: lector(s), sacristan(s), and if needed: extraordinary minister(s) of Holy Communion, musician(s), gift bearer(s), usher(s); provide refreshments (food, drink, snacks).

Possible Schedule:

7:00 p.m. **Gather and Introductions**

Have each person introduce themselves and share which World Youth Day(s) they attended, and a favorite World Youth Day moment.

7:10 p.m. **Lectio Divina Prayer**

Gather the participants into small groups of three to five people each and then ask everyone to collect themselves in a prayerful spirit. Begin with one person in the large group space reading aloud the story of the *Transfiguration* (Lk 9:28-37)

NOTE: You may want to explain *Lectio Divina* in between the introductions and the prayer experience. You can simply say that this is a type of Catholic prayer reflecting on the Scriptures guided by the Holy Spirit. It includes five steps: *lectio* (read), *meditatio* (reflect), *oratio* (pray), *contemplatio* (contemplate or gaze upon), and *actio* (act).

1. Lectio: As we read the story of the Transfiguration, what stood out to you? Write or bring to mind any words or phrases that jumped out at you. Share that with your group.

2. Meditatio: Meditate on the story of the Transfiguration. As we read it again slowly, think about words or phrases that stand out to you. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide your meditation. Ask, "What does this mean for me as a World Youth Day alumni?" Share your thoughts with your group.

3. Oratio: Compose your own prayer. Think about the application of the story of the Transfiguration in the journeys to and from your World Youth Day experience(s). Share your prayer or thoughts with the group.

4. Contemplatio: Take a moment of contemplation and communication with God. Take time to sit in silence and be with God. Listen to what he has to say about the Transfiguration story and how it impacts your own pilgrim journey.

5. Actio: Let the Word of God take action in your life. For a final time, read the story of the Transfiguration and reflect on how you will act differently going forward. How might this story impact your actions in the world? Feel free to write down or share any resolutions you may have with the small group.

Close the period of Lectio Divina with the official **WYDUSA Prayer**, found at <http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/world-youth-day-usa-prayer.cfm>.

7:30 p.m.

World Youth Day Alumni Witness

The presentation should be no longer than 15 minutes.

Consider beginning the witness by playing the theme song of the World Youth Day(s) that the witness speaker attended, and reading aloud the Scripture verse theme of that year's international celebration.

(Alternatively, three alumni can get up to share their stories for 5 minutes each, plus the music from their World Youth Day(s), though this may extend this portion by a few minutes, reducing small group time)

7:50 p.m.

Small Group Sharing

After the witness, break into small groups and have participants share the following:

- What impact did World Youth Day have on you when you were younger?
- How has World Youth Day continued to influence or impact you today?
- After all these years, why is World Youth Day important to your life and faith?
- What is your hope for the pilgrims (future alumni) attending WYD 2016 in Kraków?

8:30 p.m.

Celebration of Holy Mass

Bring the group together for Mass to conclude the evening of reflection.

***NOTE:** Celebrate the Mass for the Day. Select liturgical ministers from among the alumni who are present for the gathering, who have the training and commissioning to take part in those liturgical roles (see notes on preparation above). The priest is welcome to draw parallels between the readings of the day and the WYD alumni experience. If music is used, consider using one or more of past World Youth Day theme songs.*

9:00 p.m.

Social and Networking Time

Have light food and refreshments for participants. Consider also having participants bring and share any photos or keepsakes from their World Youth Day experiences.

WYDUSA Alumni Dinner and Networking

Basic Objective: Connect with local alumni at a restaurant for networking, sharing, and conversation.

Location: Local restaurant or pub (preferably with a private/back room) in the community; if one is not available or accessible, this gathering can also take place at the home of a World Youth Day alumni or at the pastoral center or community gathering space of a local parish, diocese, campus, or Catholic institution.

Duration: Approximately two hours, including dinner (or heavy appetizers).

Timing: This gathering can take place at any time, though it might have special resonance if held near or during the international World Youth Day gathering in Kraków in late July 2016.

Preparation: Arrange gathering/reservations with restaurant or pub; set up a registration/welcome table; develop handout with information on upcoming events; assign conversation or small group leaders, if deemed necessary; provide dinner/refreshments, if not at a local restaurant or pub; select an alumni (or a pastoral leader in the community) to offer a short 15 minute presentation (or select three individuals to offer 5 minute presentations each)

Possible Schedule:

NOTE: If at a restaurant or pub, it is recommended that participants order dinner as they arrive or soon thereafter (within the first fifteen minutes of the program); the dinner selections would ideally be delivered to the participants/tables as the small group conversations begin.

7:00 p.m. **Gathering and Opening Prayer** (use the official **WYDUSA Prayer**, found at <http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/world-youth-day-usa-prayer.cfm>)

Introductions: have each person introduce themselves and share which World Youth Day(s) they attended, and a favorite World Youth Day moment. This can be done in small groups or the large group, depending on the size and circumstances.

7:15 p.m. **Large Group Presentation**
The presentation should be on one or more of the following topics:

- **Inspired:** how the theme song, the Scriptural theme, or the words of the Holy Father at their World Youth Day(s) have inspired them for their life of faith beyond the pilgrimage experience (NOTE: if choosing this option, it might be helpful to play the song or read the Scripture or papal quote prior to the presentation).
- **Pilgrimage:** how the presenter felt that the journey to and from their World Youth Day was truly a "pilgrimage" and not a vacation, and how they continue to think "as a pilgrim" in their everyday life beyond World Youth Day.
- **Encounter/Impact:** how the presenter had an encounter with Christ at World Youth Day, and this experience has impacted their life ever since.
- **Accompany:** how the presenter was accompanied through World Youth Day by a mentor, priest or ministry leader, family member, or another pilgrim – and how that has impacted how they have accompanied others ever since.

- Sending: how the presenter felt sent (after World Youth Day) into their vocation, their career, their marriage, their commitment to social justice or advocacy, or their role in their local community, their cultural family, or the global society.

The presentation should be casual, accessible, and keeping in mind that not all World Youth Day alumni are currently active in the practice of their faith, or have a strong knowledge of Catholic language or issues). When choosing a presenter, consider one who is engaging, enjoyable to listen to, and personable.

7:45 p.m.

Small Group Conversations

At this time, the dinners should arrive – and this is a perfect opportunity to direct the attention of the participants towards one another at table. The following are examples of questions and conversation points that can be discussed in small groups (of three to seven people) or at individual tables during the meal:

- What is your reaction to the presenters? How did their story compare to yours?
- What was the hardest part about your World Youth Day experience(s)?
- What do you remember most about the event? The Pope? The bishop's catechesis or group activities? The food? The music? The walking or camping?
- How might the Scriptural theme or the theme song of your World Youth Day(s) connect with your life and faith ever since returning home from pilgrimage?
- What aspects of your life now have a direct (or indirect) connection to your experiences at World Youth Day? What makes it so impactful?

8:30 p.m.

Large Group Discussion

After dinner and small group time, perhaps over dessert, discuss any thoughts from the small group discussions with the large group; then lead into the closing questions:

- What kind of impact can World Youth Day pilgrims have on their community?
- How can we connect with or assist current pilgrims when they return?
- Where do we go from here? What's next for us in our faith lives?

8:50 p.m.

Announcements and Invitations

Close the evening with details of upcoming opportunities, or creatively think of ways to continue the networking and dialogue among World Youth Day alumni.

Feel free to close the evening with a short prayer.

Welcome Home Reunion

Basic Objective: To welcome current WYD pilgrims home and into the WYD alumni network.

Location: Catholic shrine, church, campus ministry, pastoral center, or religious community in the diocese, at the parish, on or nearby a local college campus.

Duration: Approximately 30-45 minutes, plus a welcome reception.

Timing: Within a parish or diocesan setting, this gathering should take place within the week of return or no more than two weeks after the pilgrims' arrival home. At a high school or on a college campus, this gathering can take place within one month of the arrival home, within the first weeks of school.

Preparation: Using the suggested outline below, consider creating a program booklet with the text. Organize food and hospitality for the welcome reception following the prayer service. A priest or deacon must preside at this prayer service.

Order of Service¹: Blessing of Returning Pilgrims

Introductory Rites

Consider using the official 2016 World Youth Day hymn, "**Blest are the Merciful**," with music and lyrics available online at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/krakow-2016-official-song.cfm>. During this time, there may be a procession of returning pilgrims, if space allows.

Celebrant: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **R/. Amen.**

May God, our hope and our strength, fill you with peace and with joy in the Holy Spirit.
Glory to God now and forever. **R/. Amen.**

Your pilgrimage has been a privileged period of grace given you by God. You who have come to trust in the experience of World Youth Day are moved with a new resolve to be renewed in heart.

The sanctuaries that you have visited, and the experiences you have had, are a sign of that house not built with hands, namely the Body of Christ, in which we are the living stones built upon Christ, the cornerstone. As you return home, welcomed by those who have traveled this road before you, let us live up to the vocation God has given us: to be a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people God claims for his own, so that we may everywhere proclaim the goodness of him who called us from darkness into his marvelous light.

Reading of the Word of God

Reader 1: Brothers and sisters, listen to the words of... *(Choose from one of the following):*

**Isaiah 2:2-5; Joel 3:1-5; Luke 10:1-12, 17-24; Luke 24:28-35; Acts 8:26-35;
Ephesians 4:1-6, 25-32; 2 Timothy 1:6-14; Hebrews 13:12-21**

Reader 2: **Psalms 84: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8** **R./ How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord mighty God!**

¹ Adapted, with the permission of the Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, from "Blessing of Pilgrims Before or After Their Return" from the English translation of *Book of Blessings* © 1987, International Commission on English in the Liturgy, Inc. (ICEL). Used with permission. All Rights Reserved.

Following the reading of Scripture, the celebrant may give those present a brief explanation of the biblical text, so that they may understand through faith the meaning of this celebration. In addition, a WYD alumni may offer a few words of witness or reflection focusing on themes including: the legacy of WYD, from generation to generation; passing on what you have received; returning from a journey or transformative experience; integrating the lessons learned into everyday life; the vocations and pathways that arise from WYD; becoming missionary disciples, or similar topics.

Intercessions

Celebrant: The Lord of heaven willed that in Christ's humanity the fullness of divinity should dwell as in its temple, Let us pray to him, saying: "Lord, hear our prayer."

Reader 3: Father all-holy, in the Passover exodus you prefigured the blessed road of your people toward salvation; grant that in all the paths we follow we may remain whole-heartedly faithful to you. For this we pray: **R./ Lord, hear our prayer.**

You set your Church in this world as a visible sign from which the true light shines for all to see; grant that many more will experience the universal Church at World Youth Day and walk in your ways. For this we pray: **R./ Lord, hear our prayer.**

You have told us that here we have no lasting city; grant that we may always seek the pilgrim destination that is to come. For this we pray: **R./ Lord, hear our prayer.**

You teach all the faithful to perceive the signs of your presence along the pathways of life; grant that we may come to recognize Christ as the companion of our journey and know him in the breaking of the bread. For this we pray: **R./ Lord, hear our prayer.**

Prayer of Blessing and Concluding Rite

The celebrant calls forward the returning pilgrims and blesses them:

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O God, / Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
From all races of the earth / you have chosen a people dedicated to you,
eager to do what is right. / Your grace has moved the hearts of these, your friends,
to love you more deeply and to serve you more generously.
We ask you to bless them, / so that they may tell of your wonderful deeds
and give proof of them in their lives. / We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R/. Amen.**

Celebrant: May God, the Lord of heaven and earth / who so graciously has accompanied you on
this pilgrimage, / continue to keep you under his protection. **R/. Amen.**

May God, who gathered all his scattered children in Christ Jesus,/ grant that you will be
of one heart/ and one mind in Christ. **R/. Amen.**

May God, whose goodness inspires in you/ all that you desire and achieve,/ strengthen
your devotion by his blessing. **R/. Amen.**

The celebrant may invite participants to exchange a sign of peace. Also at this time, WYD alumni may come forward to pray over each returning pilgrim and offer them a sign of peace.

The celebration may end with an appropriate hymn (ideally one focused on mission, discipleship, unity, or a past World Youth Day theme song). After the service, **a welcome reception** could be held in a location adjacent to the worship space.

WYD Kraków Watch Party

Basic Objective: With other WYDUSA alumni, watch the 2016 World Youth Day events in Kraków.

Location: Catholic church, campus ministry, or pastoral center in the diocese, at the parish, on or nearby a local college campus, or in the home of an alumni in the area; can also be held at a local restaurant with a private/back room. Wherever it is held, access to television, video playback device, or the internet will be necessary to watch the events.

Duration: Depends on the event(s) watched; anywhere from one to three hours per event.

Timing: During the World Youth Day events in Kraków (July 26 to 31, 2016); however, if the event(s) are recorded and played back during this program, then the timing can be more flexible.

Preparation: Reserve space and time at whatever location is chosen; decide whether event(s) will be watched live or recorded, and whether through television, video playback, or the internet; set up a registration/welcome table; develop handout with information on upcoming opportunities; provide food, drinks, and refreshments, if not at a local restaurant or pub; test audio/video capabilities at site.

- The setting should reflect what is being watched; for instance, if Mass or another sacred celebration is taking place, the space and atmosphere of the watch party should be prayerful and respectful; for more celebratory events, the setting can be more relaxed and open.

Possible Schedule:

0:00 **Begin program with prayer** (one possibility: the WYDUSA prayer, available at <http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/world-youth-day-usa-prayer.cfm>)

0:05 **Introductions:** participants share who they are, where they are from, as well as what World Youth Day(s) they attended, and a favorite moment. Participants can also share what World Youth Day has meant to them, how it impacted their life, and/or why they still connect with WYD (including coming to this watch party).

0:20 **Updates:** The host/coordinator shares with the participants what has been happening at the international World Youth Day celebration in Krakow up to that moment, as well as any updates on stateside celebrations in the United States in July 2016.

(NOTE: the host/coordinator can receive these updates by visiting the following websites: <http://www.wydusa.org>; <http://www.wyd2016.us>; and www.krakow2016.com, as well as the social media pages of World Youth Day, i.e. www.twitter.com/wyd_en or www.facebook.com/krakow2016, and WYDUSA, www.twitter.com/wydusa)

0:30 **Watch Event(s):** The host/coordinator directs attention to a television or computer to watch the World Youth Day event(s) for the duration of the program (or highlights).

(NOTE: the program can be interactive, with alumni participating with responses, etc., or observatory, with alumni simply watching the proceedings; allow space and time for alumni to comment, discuss, or interact with each other during or after the viewing).

Possible Watch Events (and time zone considerations for live viewing/recording); note that times are estimates, and may be changed closer to the event (check www.krakow2016.com for updates):

EVENT	DATE	KRAKOW TIME	USA TIME ZONES
Opening Mass	Tuesday, July 26	6:00 p.m.	12pm (ET), 11am (CT), 10am (MT) 9am (PT), 8am (AKT), 7am (HT)
Wed. Catechesis	Wednesday, July 27	9:00 a.m.	3am (ET), 2am (CT), 1am (MT) 12am (PT), 11pm (AKT), 10pm (HT)
USA Gathering	Wednesday, July 27	5:00 p.m.	11am (ET), 10am (CT), 9am (MT) 8am (PT), 7am (AKT), 6am (HT)
Thurs. Catechesis	Thursday, July 28	9:00 a.m.	3am (ET), 2am (CT), 1am (MT) 12am (PT), 11pm (AKT), 10pm (HT)
Papal Welcome	Thursday, July 28	6:00 p.m.	12pm (ET), 11am (CT), 10am (MT) 9am (PT), 8am (AKT), 7am (HT)
Friday Catechesis	Friday, July 29	9:00 a.m.	3am (ET), 2am (CT), 1am (MT) 12am (PT), 11pm (AKT), 10pm (HT)
Way of the Cross	Friday, July 29	6:00 p.m.	12pm (ET), 11am (CT), 10am (MT) 9am (PT), 8am (AKT), 7am (HT)
USA Pilgrim Mass	Saturday, July 30	9:00 a.m.	3am (ET), 2am (CT), 1am (MT) 12am (PT), 11pm (AKT), 10pm (HT)
Candlelight Vigil	Saturday, July 30	8:00 p.m.	2pm (ET), 1pm (CT), 12pm (MT) 11am (PT), 10am (AKT), 9am (HT)
Closing WYD Mass	Sunday, July 31	9:00 a.m.	3am (ET), 2am (CT), 1am (MT) 12am (PT), 11pm (AKT), 10pm (HT)

Follow-Up: Consider having the alumni discuss what happened, perhaps comparing that experience to their own from past World Youth Days. Some questions to consider:

- As you watched what was happening in Krakow, what memories or moments were stirred up in your own mind and heart from your World Youth Day experiences?
- How can the pilgrims of today be best prepared for what comes next, using your own experience following up from World Youth Day as a guide?
- How can the community of WYD alumni assist those pilgrims as they re-enter their worlds?

After some time of discussion, the host/coordinator can close with a brief prayer and refreshments, possibly looking for future opportunities for the WYD alumni to connect and continue the dialogue.

Additional Suggestions for Alumni Gatherings

Coordinate or Assist with WYD 2016 Stateside Celebration

Alumni can come together to coordinate a stateside World Youth Day celebration for youth and/or young adults in their area who are not traveling to Krakow for the international event. A guide for developing a stateside event is available online at: <http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/upload/WYDUSA-Stateside-Guide-2016.pdf> (English) and http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/upload/Stateside-Guide-FINAL_SPN.pdf (Spanish).

If a local celebration is happening in your local area already (inquire with your diocese or check out the list of gatherings online at <http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/stateside-wyd-celebrations.cfm>), consider assisting with or helping out at that event.

Jubilee of Mercy Project

Invite other World Youth Day alumni in your area to a day of giving back to your local community. Reconnect with people who you traveled to WYD with while completing an act of service or justice. Swap stories about World Youth Day experiences while working together to finish a project based on one or more of the Corporal Works of Mercy.

Sports Team or League

Organize a team as a part of a local recreation league. Come together every week to play a sport together. Set aside time before and after your games to pray together and share stories and memories from the various experiences of World Youth Days among participating alumni.

Happy Hour Gathering

Organize a happy hour at a local bar or restaurant for World Youth Day alumni in the area. See if the bar or restaurant would be willing to offer different food and drink specials for your party. Hand out WYD prayers. Create a bar trivia with WYD questions. Have photos of past World Youth Days.

Potluck or Outdoor BBQ

Host a potluck or BBQ for World Youth Day alumni and those who supported pilgrims going to World Youth Day. Consider asking participants to bring a food dish of their cultural family, or from the host country of the World Youth Day(s) they attended.

In addition to the meal, consider organizing lawn games, sports, times of prayer, and opportunities to look at pictures and share stories from past World Youth Days.

Local Pilgrimage Trip

Organize a pilgrimage to a site of Catholic heritage (church, shrine, historical site, location where the Holy Father visited, etc.) in your local area (or within a short drive or bus ride), giving World Youth Day alumni a chance to experience the act of pilgrimage once more. Organizers can check out the possible sites across the United States on this USCCB website: <http://www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/sites-of-catholic-heritage-in-the-usa.cfm>. Organizers can also coordinate their group to go on pilgrimage to the Holy Door for the Jubilee of Mercy in their local diocese.

Participating in Local Community or Church Events

Reserve tickets to an event in your community that World Youth Day Alumni can purchase or claim. For example, reserve tickets to a baseball game, concert, play, or community showcase. For church activities, work with a local pastor to organize a night of prayer at a local parish. Have Eucharistic Adoration, a rosary walk, a special Mass, etc. to celebrate your memories from World Youth Day.

Resources for World Youth Day USA Alumni

WYDUSA Alumni Network Registration Page:

www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/alumni-network-registration.cfm

WYDUSA Alumni Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/WYDUSAalumni/

WYDUSA Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/wydusa/

WYDUSA Twitter Page: www.twitter.com/wydusa/

United States' World Youth Day Page: www.wydusa.org

United States' Stateside World Youth Day USA Page:

www.usccb.org/about/world-youth-day/stateside-wyd-celebrations.cfm

Collaborative WYDUSA Page (Catholic Apostolate Center): www.wyd2016.us

International World Youth Day Page (2016): www.krakow2016.com

Vatican World Youth Day Pages: www.vatican.va/gmg/documents/ and

www.vatican.va/news_services/press/documentazione/documents/giornate-mondiali/giornata-mondiale-gioventu_elenco_en.html

Chronicle of Past World Youth Days (via Vatican):

www.vatican.va/gmg/documents/gmg_chronicle-wyd_20020325_en.html

Jubilee of Mercy Resources for Catholics in the United States (via USCCB):

www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/how-we-teach/new-evangelization/jubilee-of-mercy/

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops website: www.usccb.org



For more information or for assistance with developing a World Youth Day USA alumni activity, contact the USCCB World Youth Day office at (202) 541-3044 or email wyd@usccb.org.

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