

Pilgrim Year of Preparation

July 2016

FEATURED DATES

1 – Feast of St. Junipero Serra, O.F.M.

Spanish Franciscan friar and founder of the missions of California; patron of vocations and recently canonized saint from the United States.

4 – American Independence Day

On this day in 1776, the United States was born when the 2nd Continental Congress approves the Declaration of Independence. Pray in thanksgiving for freedom and for our heritage.

Feast of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is one of the primary patrons of young adults and many of the international World Youth Day gatherings; in a special way, Pier Giorgio has been designated by the USCCB as a patron for all WYD pilgrims from the United States. Pier Giorgio was adventurous, committed to working for the poor, devoted to the Eucharist, and loyal to friends and family. Named by Pope John Paul II "The Man of the Eight Beatitudes," his body will travel to Krakow for WYD 2016 later this month.

6 – Feast of St. Maria Goretti

Patroness of young women, especially those who suffer from sexual abuse, and one of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

7 – Feast of Blessed Peter To Rot

One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

13 – Feast of St. Teresa of the Andes

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

14 – Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Patroness of WYDUSA and Native Americans, and a young adult from North America who was persecuted for her Catholic beliefs; one of the patrons of WYD Toronto (2002).

15-20 – Anniversary of WYD Sydney (2008)

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

16 – Feast of Our Lady of Aparecida

Patroness of Brazil and WYD Rio (2013)

17 – Feast of St. Hedwig (Jadwiga) of Poland

Fourteenth century Polish queen, patroness of Poland, of queens, and of a united Europe.

20 – Anniversary of Apollo 11 Moon Landing

On this day in 1969, we landed on the moon. Pray for all those who work in the sciences.

23-28 – Anniversary of WYD Toronto (2002)

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. (Matt. 5:13-14)

23-28 – Anniversary of WYD Rio (2013)

Go make disciples of all nations. (Matt. 28:19)

25 – Feast of St. James the Apostle

St. James the Apostle walked with Jesus in the New Testament, and journeyed with Christ up Mount Tabor to witness the Transfiguration with his brother John and Simon Peter. Through the centuries, St. James continues to walk with those who make pilgrimage, especially along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. He is the patron of all pilgrim travelers, including those journeying to World Youth Day 2016. Patron saint of WYD Santiago de Compostela (1989).

26-31 – Stateside WYD Pilgrimages, USA

Youth and young adults across the United States participate digitally and gather for local stateside celebrations of World Youth Day.

26-31 – World Youth Day Krakow (2016)

Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy (Mt. 5:7); Pope Francis and 2.5 million people come to Krakow, Poland, for the 31st celebration of World Youth Day in the land of its founder, St. John Paul II.

The World Youth Day pilgrimage does not end here. It continues on in the missionary spirit of all WYD participants for years to come.