

Pilgrim Year of Preparation

June 2016

FEATURED DATES

2 – The “Lajkonik” Festival in Krakow

On the first Thursday after Corpus Christi, this 700-year old Krakow folk festival includes a costumed Tatar on horseback accompanied by those in traditional Polish country attire, with music, revelers, and dancing in Market Square.

3 – Year of Mercy: Sacred Heart of Jesus

In Rome today, Pope Francis celebrates a Jubilee for Priests on a date that St. John Paul II marked as a day of sanctification of priests; 2016 marks 160 years since the introduction of the Sacred Heart feast by Pope Pius IX in 1856. Pray for priests who have journeyed with WYD pilgrims over the years, and for those whose vocation to priesthood was inspired at WYD.

12 – Year of Mercy: Ill & Disabled Jubilee

In Rome today, Pope Francis celebrates a Jubilee those who are ill and disabled. On this day, pray for those suffering from sickness and those handicapped in some way, and in a particular way for any WYD pilgrims and alumni who are ill, disabled, or handicapped.

14 – Flag Day

This day honors the flag of the United States, a unifying symbol for its citizens. At World Youth Day, consider the ways that you can honor the American flag that you bear by your words, by your actions, and by the example you set in an international (as well as stateside) setting.

15 – Feast of Blessed Albertina Berkenbrock

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

19 – Father’s Day

Pray for all fathers on this day through the intercession of St. Joseph; in a special way, pray for the fathers of WYD pilgrims, and all male WYD alumni who are now fathers.

20 – Anniversary of Renewing the Vision

On this date in 1997, the U.S. bishops approved their framework for Catholic youth ministry

20 – Baptismal Day of St. John Paul II

In 1920, Karol Wojtyla was baptized on this day at the parochial parish of Wadowice, Poland, now called the Basilica Church of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

21 – Feast of St. Thomas More & St. John Fisher

Sixteenth century English martyrs and examples of fidelity to the faith against civil authority; patrons of religious liberty

Fortnight for Freedom 2016 begins

From June 21 to July 4, American Catholics pray for religious liberty in our country.

24 – Feast of St. John the Baptist

Prophetic forerunner of Christ and model of bold evangelization, even in the face of persecution, ridicule, and martyrdom; on this day, pray for courage on your pilgrim journey.

29 – Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul

Pillars of the faith who were essential to the beginnings of Christianity after the Resurrection of Jesus; martyred in Rome in the 60s A.D. On this day, the pope bestows the pallium (stole) on new archbishops. Both are buried in Rome (at the Basilicas of St. Peter at the Vatican and St. Paul Outside the Walls). Patrons of the city of Rome and the Church Universal.

[St. John Paul II gives millennium message](#)

In advance of the Jubilee Year 2000, the pope delivers this message on the Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul to young people on the WYD Cross, the Incarnation, and the city of Rome.

30 – Feast of the First Martyrs of Rome

First century Roman martyrs falsely accused by the Emperor Nero of burning Rome in 64 A.D.; these men and women are some of the many patrons of the city of Rome (site of the first international gatherings of young people in 1984 and 1985, the annual papal Palm Sunday celebration, and World Youth Day 2000).