



## World Youth Day Chronology (1984-Present)

World Youth Day is a global celebration of faith for Catholic youth and young adults, held every year since its inception during the Jubilee of Redemption (1983 to 1984), when St. John Paul II called for an international meeting of young people on Palm Sunday 1984 in Rome and handed over the Jubilee cross (now known as the "World Youth Day Cross") to young adult Catholics around the world.

As the development of this pilgrimage took place, a trend began with the international gatherings being held in a different host country every two to three years, with local celebrations of youth and young adults (in Rome and around the world) taking place in the intervening years.

The following is a chronology of these World Youth Day gatherings:

### **1984: The Jubilee of Redemption for Young People**

#### **Rome (St. Peter's Square): April 11-15, 1984**

Theme: "A Festival of Hope: A Jubilee of Young People in Rome"

Song: "Resta Qui Con Noi" (Italian)

International Attendance: 300,000; U.S. Attendance: *not known*

NOTE: Pope John Paul II entrusts the WYD Cross to young people (April 22, 1984)

### **1985: International Year of Young People**

#### **Rome (St. Peter's Square): Palm Sunday, March 31, 1985**

Theme: "A Festival of Hope: International Year of Young People"

International Attendance: 300,000; U.S. Attendance: *not known*

NOTE: Pope John Paul II announces institution of World Youth Day (December 20, 1985)

### **1986: First World Youth Day**

#### **Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, March 23, 1986**

Theme: "Always be prepared to make a defense to anyone who calls you to account for the hope that is in you" (1Pt 3:15)

### **1987: II World Youth Day (International)**

#### **Buenos Aires, Argentina: April 11-12, 1987**

Theme: "We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves" (1Jn 4:16)

Song: "Un Nuevo Sol" (Spanish): "A New Sun"

International Attendance: 1,000,000; U.S. Attendance: *not known*

NOTE: This is the first international youth gathering outside of Rome

### **1988: III World Youth Day**

#### **Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, March 27, 1988**

Theme: "Do whatever he tells you" (Jn 2:5)

**1989: IV World Youth Day (International)**

**Santiago de Compostela, Spain: August 15-20, 1989**

Theme: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life" (Jn 14:6)

Song: "Somos Los Jóvenes" (Spanish): "We Are Young"

International Attendance: 400,000; U.S. Attendance: *not known*

**1990: V World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 8, 1990**

Theme: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5)

**1991: VI World Youth Day (International)**

**Częstochowa, Poland: August 10-15, 1991**

Theme: "You have received a spirit of sonship" (Rom 8:15)

Song: "Abba Ojczy" (Polish, Italian, Spanish): "Abba Father"

International Attendance: 1,600,000; U.S. Attendance: *not known*

**1992: VII World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 12, 1992**

Theme: "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel" (Mk 16:15)

**1993: VIII World Youth Day (International)**

**Denver, USA: August 10-15, 1993**

Theme: "I came that they might have life, and have it to the full" (Jn 10:10)

Song: "We Are One Body" (English)

International Attendance: 500,000; U.S. Attendance: 180,000

**1994: IX World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, March 27, 1994**

Theme: "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you" (Jn 20: 21)

**1995: X World Youth Day (International)**

**Manila, Philippines: January 10-15, 1995**

Theme: "As the Father sent me, so am I sending you" (Jn 20: 21)

Song: "Tell the World of His Love" (English)

International Attendance: 5,000,000; U.S. Attendance: 1,000

**1996: XI World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, March 31, 1996**

Theme: "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (Jn 6:68).

**1997: XII World Youth Day (International)**

**Paris, France: August 19-24, 1997**

Theme: "Teacher, where are you staying? Come and see" (cf. Jn 1:38-39)

Song: "Maître Et Seigneur" (French): "Lord and Master"

International Attendance: 1,200,000; U.S. Attendance: 13,000

**1998: XIII World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 5, 1998**

Theme: "The Holy Spirit will teach you all things" (cf. Jn 14:26)

### **1999: XIV World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, March 28, 1999**

Theme: "The Father loves you" (cf. Jn 16:27)

### **2000: XV World Youth Day (International)**

**Rome, Italy: August 15-20, 2000**

Theme: "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14)

Song: "Emmanuel" (Italian, English, French, Spanish)

International Attendance: 2,000,000; U.S. Attendance: 20,000

### **2001: XVI World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 8, 2001**

Theme: "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me" (Lk 9:23)

### **2002: XVII World Youth Day (International)**

**Toronto, Canada: July 23-28, 2002**

Theme: "You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of the world" (Mt 5: 13,14)

Song: "Lumière Du Monde" (French, English, Spanish, Italian): "Light of the World"

International Attendance: 800,000; U.S. Attendance: 57,000

### **2003: XVIII World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 13, 2003**

Theme: "Behold, your mother!" (Jn 19,27)

### **2004: XIX World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 4, 2004**

Theme: "We wish to see Jesus" (Jn 12,21)

### **2005: XX World Youth Day (International)**

**Cologne, Germany: August 16-21, 2005**

Theme: "We have come to worship Him" (Mt 2,2)

Song: "Venimus Adorare Eum" (Latin, German, etc.): "We Have Come to Worship Him"

International Attendance: 1,200,000; U.S. Attendance: 25,000

### **2006: XXI World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 9, 2006**

Theme: "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path" (Ps 119, 105)

### **2007: XXII World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 8, 2007**

Theme: "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another" (Jn 13, 34)

### **2008: XXIII World Youth Day (International)**

**Sydney, Australia: July 15-20, 2008**

Theme: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses" (Acts 1, 8)

Song: "Receive the Power" (English, Italian, Spanish, French)

International Attendance: 400,000; U.S. Attendance: 15,000

**2009: XXIV World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 5, 2009**

Theme: "We have set our hope on the living God" (1 Tm 4:10)

**2010: XXV World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010**

Theme: "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Mk 10:17)

**2011: XXVI World Youth Day (International)**

**Madrid, Spain: August 16-21, 2011**

Theme: "Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith" (cf. Col 2:7)

Song: "Firmes en la Fe" (Spanish, etc.): "Firm in the Faith"

International Attendance: 1,400,000; U.S. Attendance: 29,000

**2012: XXVII World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 1, 2012**

Theme: "Rejoice in the Lord always!" (cf. Phil 4:4)

**2013: XXVIII World Youth Day (International)**

**Rio de Janeiro, Brazil: July 23-28, 2013**

Theme: "Go and make disciples of all nations!" (cf. Mt 28:19)

Song: "Esperança do Amanhecer" (Portuguese): "Hope in the Morning"

International Attendance: 3,700,000; U.S. Attendance: 10,000

**2014: XXIX World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, April 13, 2014**

Theme: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Mt 5:3).

**2015: XXX World Youth Day**

**Local Celebrations: Palm Sunday, March 29, 2015**

Theme: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Mt 5:8).

**2016: XXXI World Youth Day (International)**

**Krakow, Poland: July 26-31, 2016**

Theme: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy" (Mt 5:7).

Song: "Błogostawieni Miłosierni" (Polish): "Blessed are the Merciful"

International Attendance: 2,000,000 est.; U.S. Attendance: 36,000 est.

**Vatican WYD pages/messages:** [www.vatican.va/news\\_services/press/documentazione/documents/giornate-mondiali/giornata-mondiale-gioventu\\_elenco\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/news_services/press/documentazione/documents/giornate-mondiali/giornata-mondiale-gioventu_elenco_en.html) and [www.vatican.va/gmg/documents/](http://www.vatican.va/gmg/documents/)



For more information about World Youth Day, go to [www.wydusa.org](http://www.wydusa.org) or call the USCCB World Youth Day Office at (202) 541-3044 or email [wyd@usccb.org](mailto:wyd@usccb.org).

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