



SPANISH STEPS



THE ROAD TO MADRID!

ADVENT 2010 VOLUME 1 ISSUE 3

NEWS FROM THE YOUTH OFFICE

As I write for this current edition of "Spanish Steps" there are just 239 days to go before we climb the steps to our flights to Madrid. Before then of course we have the remainder of Advent and our time of preparation for the coming of Our Lord is almost over.

2010 has been a very busy time at the Youth Office in addition to WYD Madrid preparations we have been working hard with the Lourdes Pilgrimage, Youth-Gather and the Papal Visit. All three events involved over 400 young people and were immensely enriching. I am sure all these events will bear much good fruit in the months and years ahead.

By now we hoped that would have had our WYD weekend away at Dalesdown. Sadly the snow had other ideas! We had a lot of good plans in place for our preparation weekend away including a Tapas Supper with a live Spanish Dance Band. Let's hope that in 2011 we can find another opportunity to do this.

Back in October, Fr. David, Fr. Daryl, Lucy and I spent 4 nights in the Diocese of Salamanca firming up the arrangements for our days in the diocese prior to the week in Madrid. The organisation there is first class and I anticipate that we will have a great time with the range of social, liturgical and community service activities on offer.

Whilst we were in the diocese the World Youth Day Cross came to town. We were privileged to attend much of the WYD Cross festivities and this gave us a real taste of what WYD will be like for us

next summer.

So far 16 countries will be sending a total of



over 3000 young people to Salamanca: Italy, England, Venezuela, Canada, Australia, Nigeria, China (Hong Kong), Germany, Belgium, Poland, Tahiti, Ireland, France, Brazil, Benin and South Africa.

At our information gathering meeting we met representatives from the Diocese of Cambrai (Northern France) and the Diocese of Würzburg about 1 hour or so drive from Frankfurt. Both dioceses have invited us to send a few pilgrims from A&B to meet with them next year, Würzburg over the Palm Sunday weekend of 16th/17th of April and Cambrai the weekend of 7th/8th May. In both cases we will probable travel by minibus to keep costs low. If you are interested in either of these mini WYD trips then please let Lucy know ASAP!

One of things we would have discussed at the Dalesdown weekend was fundraising. An idea that is developing in the youth office is to have a 24-hour sponsored event using a school athletics facility in the diocese, possibly on 18th/19th April. The aim is to encourage as many people as possible, both WYD pilgrims and non pilgrims, to participate by attending the venue and go around the track as many times as possible to raise money. Partici-

(Continued on page 4)



Snow on Sunday in Madrid?!

MADRID

Friday 17th December 2010



3°C/-4°C

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

DIOCESE OF CAMBRAI	2
WORLD YOUTH DAY	
DIOCESE OF SALAMANCA	3
FUN FACTS	
FOOD FOR THOUGHT	4
THE BENEDICT BOUNCE	

DIOCESE OF CAMBRAI, FRANCE

While we were visiting Salamanca, we were blessed to meet organisers from other dioceses that will be spending their Days in the Diocese in Salamanca. Marie Payen, from the Diocese of Cambrai in Northern France (quite near the Belgian border), wrote this article for us.

“The theme of this WYD speaks to us young people, because we need to find roots to continue to be or to become witnesses of Christ.

WYDs are also a good occasion for us to find out that we are not alone in our faith, that there are plenty of young people all around the world who are Christians too, and that together we are a Church that seeks to be “firm in the faith”. That’s why we are really looking forward to the days in Salamanca where we’ll have a real opportunity to share daily life with Spanish people, and also with all who will be welcomed with us to this extraordinary diocese.

As we discover Spain, we shall also, for example, get to know England through the young people from Arundel and Brighton who will be hosted along with us in Salamanca. We shall probably discover all sorts of unique ways and customs of everyone who is to be hosted there (16 nationalities!), and A&B’s young people will be among them. This is really one of the most

marvellous things about WYD: we meet so many different people, with different customs, different lives, but we all are the same before God’s love, we can all share our faith before one Cross.

Distance-wise, Brighton and Cambrai are really close, and we feel really happy to know that just on the other side of the sea, there are many people who are working on the same project, that we are all facing the same direction, towards Madrid, but that we are also working towards building a world with more hope, more charity and more faith.

The young people from the Diocese of Cambrai have many expectations for their own lives and we try, through WYD and other events we offer them, to help them to build their lives in a Christian way. We try to offer them different possibilities according to where they are on this journey to God and to what are they seeking for their lives... Participating in WYD is living a pilgrimage of feast and faith, of meetings and sharings, but it’s also an opportunity to renew the trust and joy of the Risen Christ in our daily lives.

We all have something to bring and something to receive... May this be shared during those days in Spain!

We would be very happy to welcome some of A&B’s young people to our diocese for a weekend on 7th -8th May 2011, when we’ll welcome the community of Taizé (Burgundy, France). During this meeting, there will be a WYD event and all young people who are interested in WYD are invited to join in.



Fr Aaron is one of the chaplains accompanying the diocesan pilgrimage to Salamanca and Madrid next summer. Read what he has to say about his experiences of World Youth Day.

“When I think of World Youth Day, a number of thoughts come to mind. First, I think of my first experience at Paris with the diocese. For me, this was the first time I had encountered the Catholic Church, in its universality, and in all its richness and vibrancy. I discovered that as a young catholic (I was only 17), I was part of something huge, and that there were many thousands, millions even who were like me and

WORLD YOUTH DAY

by Fr Aaron Spinelli

that gave me great strength and confidence in my journey of faith. Also I was awakened to the diocesan family, I met and enjoyed time with many other young people, I met Ray and so many inspiring priests, who through their faith and enthusiasm had fired me up in my faith and gave me great encouragement. For me it was the laughter, the camaraderie and the fun of being away with great people, that I would never forget, but it was also the great moments of prayer and encounter with the Lord and his Vicar on earth, Pope John Paul that still give me tingles down my spine. I think especially of the prayer vigil and celebration of Holy Mass at Longchamps. I can honestly say that the year 1997 was the year when I strongly felt called to serve God as a priest, and I put that down to Lourdes and

(Continued on next page)

(Continued from page 2)

World Youth Day. During the days in Paris, I was fortunate to attend an evening for vocations at St. Sulpice where I met so many young seminarians, priests, monks and nuns. I was inspired by their joyful presence and in awe of their dedication to the Lord, and that encounter made think I could be one like them in my own country, my own diocese. Further prompts from God came through the words of Pope John Paul at the Vigil, where he asked all young people present, 'what were to do for Christ in our lives in the Millennium to come?', for me It seemed like - as Pope John Paul often spoke- he was speaking to me directly, personally, it seemed like God was definitely calling me to serve him and his people as a Priest. There is much more to my vocation story, I will not bore you with that here! However I can say that my time at World Youth Days, in Paris, Rome and Toronto were significant in my faith experience and my discernment as to whether God was calling me to be a priest. Whether God is calling any of you to serve him in the Church? Who knows, but you may be surprised by the Lord's Spirit working in you and in others during the days in Spain.

DIOCESE OF SALAMANCA



Raúl Izquierdo is the Director of Logistics for the Days in the Diocese in Salamanca. He has written this welcome letter to all pilgrims!

Dear Brothers and Sisters from the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton,

Above all, now that we have started our journey during this season of Advent, we send our love to each and every one of you. We fervently wish for Jesus to enter our hearts, our stories and our Church. Not long ago, we welcomed a delegation from your diocese to our Diocese of Salamanca. We had been in touch by telephone and email, but it was important for us to meet face to face and to get to know each other in person. We talked a great deal about the Days in the Diocese in Salamanca, and now the people of Salamanca know that you will be here in August and are very happy to welcome you. We feel deep down that

we shall be welcoming brothers and sisters in faith, who live across the sea...

Above all, we want the Days in Salamanca to be an experience of Jesus Christ, you and us. He is the one who unites us and who, in fact, has united us for these Days. In addition, Salamanca is a World Heritage Site, with a rich history. We know that it existed as a diocese in the third century AD; the first Spanish university was established in Salamanca and as such, in 1314, was one of the first in Europe. Salamanca is an extremely beautiful city. Its rich history and huge cultural legacy are due to many events that have occurred here and people who have passed through here. Some Spanish saints came and lived here, such as Teresa of Jesus, John of the Cross and even Ignatius of Loyola. Salamanca is also a university city. The hustle and bustle of its streets, its 'fiesta' and its liveliness are part of its soul. You're going to hear from us about 'fiestas' - after all, we're Spanish! You will already know that here, and especially in August, much of life is lived outside on the streets, and especially at night... Are you ready?

All of the above sums up the three dimensions we want to offer you here: spirituality and faith, culture and history and, why not, a festive ele-

ment. We want to share who we are and what we have with you. We are a local church that is not very big, but one that is alive. We live out our faith in the midst of difficulties, like you do. We want to welcome you with what we are, and we want do this joyfully, simply and with gratitude. That is why we want many of those of you who are coming to be housed in families. The family, as the centre of the domestic church, is the best possible place to welcome you. Your presence in Salamanca is very important to us. To know other young people from other dioceses from other countries helps us to open and enrich our hearts, to make us realize that we are not alone. We have all been called by the same Jesus Christ, we are unconditionally loved by God who has written our name in the palm of his hand, and we have been sent to proclaim his Gospel in the midst of this world and this culture. How wonderful to be able to share this adventure with you! Know that we are holding all of you in our heart and that you are in our prayers, planted and built up in Christ, firm in the faith! We are waiting for you with open arms here in Salamanca, which is now your home.

A biiiiiiiiiiiiig hug from us!

Raúl Izquierdo

THE BENEDICT BOUNCE

Simon Dray will be one of our leaders next August. Here's his story.

I'm 31 and I am in my fourth year of formation for the Priesthood. Although I study at St John's Seminary in Womersley, I'm currently out for this current academic year on an Extended Pastoral Placement in the Parish of Our Lady of Ransom and St Gregory with St Agnes in Eastbourne, gaining invaluable pastoral experience of parish life as well as working in the Hospital and at St Richards Catholic College in Bexhill. This will be my fourth World Youth Day with the diocese. I first went on the World Youth Day as a pilgrim to Rome in 2000, Toronto in 2002 and as a group leader in Cologne in 2005. More recently, I've been working with the Youth Service as a Redshirt Leader in Lourdes. Each World Youth Day experience has been fantastic as it shows me how alive and active the Church is. Trying to single out a favourite trip would be impossible as each trip offered something unique; from exceptional ice cream in Italy, to driving Power Boats in Canada and coming to realize that I might have a vocation to the priesthood in Cologne! Ray's now famous catchphrase of Faith, Fun, Friendship and Food is most certainly the best way to sum up the experience. I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to Madrid as it is such an exciting time to be Catholic and a perfect way for us to maintain the Benedict Bounce following the Papal visit, as we gather together as the Body of Christ in an environment of shared faith, prayer and world cultures.

FUN FACTS!

Our human ancestors, Homo erectus, who lived around 1 million years ago, came to Europe from Africa. It is thought that they crossed the stretch of water between southern Spain and Morocco, so the Spanish were the first Europeans! Human fossils and artifacts were found at two sites proving this at Orce and Atapuerca; these are much older than others found in the rest of Europe.

One famous Spaniard almost all of us will have heard of Christopher Columbus. He's probably the world's most famous explorer and the discoverer of America. He's one of the greatest figures in Spanish history, except that in Spain he is known by his Spanish name, Cristóbal Colón. Although he was born in Italy, Spain was his adopted country, and there is a national holiday in his honour. Through his discovery of America he changed the course of history!

(Continued from page 1)

pants can decide to attempt to complete as many laps as possible within a certain time period. This can be achieved by running, walking, skipping, in a sack, 3 legged, playing an instrument, juggling, walking backwards, in fancy dress etc, etc, etc.

Until we meet again in 2011, may I wish you and your families a very Blessed, joyful and fruitful Advent and Christmas time.
Love and Prayers, rayxxx

FOOD FOR THOUGHT!



Albóndigas (meatballs)

This is a popular dish in Spain. Cooks adapt to taste, but generally, this is what you do!

Serves 4

1 kilo lean mince beef (can add a bit of pork mince to the 1 kilo)
2 eggs
2 heaped tablespoons of fresh breadcrumbs
3 cloves garlic
1 heaped tablespoon of fresh parsley
1/2 kilo onions--- peeled and chopped finely
salt and black pepper and (because I like spice)
2 dry chillies, ground
1 tablespoon flour
3 tablespoons olive oil
2 small tomatoes(skinned, de-seeded ,chopped)
1 glass (approximately) dry white wine

Mix meat, eggs, breadcrumbs, garlic, parsley, 1/2 the onions, season to taste. Form into balls and dust with flour. Heat the oil and brown the meatballs on all sides. Add rest of onion, cook until soft. Then add tomatoes, wine and stock. Season to taste with the salt and pepper. Cover and simmer for about 45 minutes.

Marcella Sanchez



DIOCESE OF ARUNDEL
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