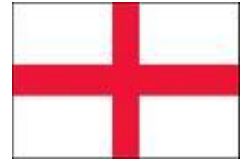




# SPANISH STEPS



THE ROAD TO MADRID!

MARCH 2011, VOLUME 1 ISSUE 4

## NEWS FROM THE YOUTH OFFICE

Time flies when you're having fun! Here at the Youth Office we're busy processing final applications, finalising travel arrangements, registering on the official website, preparing handbooks, sorting out teams, meeting with leaders, working on kit and our very own A&B banner and, of course, preparing to meet YOU again on 19th April. We can't wait! We're also trying to see whether a trip to Germany to celebrate WYD in Wurzburg on Palm Sunday is viable. Booking forms for our April and July group gatherings will be sent out shortly—don't forget to send yours in.

Lucy Jardine

### PILGRIM'S HIGH HOPES

Whilst being really, really excited for World Youth Day: Madrid 2011, I also have some underlying apprehensions about how the fortnight will turn out. However, I am absolutely sure that with all the new friends I have made throughout the preparation meetings, it's going to be one of the best two weeks of my life. There are a few things which I truly cannot wait for, which include seeing the Pope, trying authentic Spanish cuisine and most of all, spending time with my friends and meeting new people. To be honest, my thoughts are ambiguous as to what to expect, but I know that I will make the most out of my experience and enjoy it to the fullest.

Claire Hunter

### SPAIN IS PRAYING FOR YOU!

They say no building is raised without foundations. In World Youth Day in Madrid, this was clear from the outset. WYD is built on prayer. Following the tremendous excitement of that final day of World Youth Day in Sydney, with the announcement that the next World Youth Day would be held in Madrid, it was time to get to work.

The first step that Madrid's Cardinal Antonio Maria Rouco Varela took was that of writing a letter to all the monasteries and convents of contemplative life in Spain, asking that they pray for the young people who would attend WYD.

Spain has over 800 monasteries spread across the country. There are Benedictines, Carthusians, Carmelites, Augustinians, Franciscans, and more, each with their own spirituality, but all with a common mission: that of serving God alone in assiduous prayer and penance.

These monasteries have also been joined by monasteries of contemplative life from all over the world who, with their prayer, are preparing for the upcoming WYD in Madrid.

World Youth Day is grateful for the generous prayer and selfless life of so many people who, from a hidden corner of the world, sustain the preparation of each WYD.

*Extract taken from official website*



Warming up nicely in Madrid!

MADRID

Tuesday 8th March 2011



13°C/6C°

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

OFFICIAL HYMN FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY 2011 2

MESSAGE FROM POPE BENEDICT

LEADERSHIP NEWS 3

FUNDRAISING NEWS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT 4

FUN FACTS

## OFFICIAL WYDII HYMN

Words: Mons. César Franco  
Music: Fr. Enrique Vázquez

*Firmes en la fe, firmes en la fe!*

*We go forward in Christ, he's our companion and he is Lord!*

*Glory be to him! Glory be to him!*

*We go forward in Christ, made stronger in our faith.*

Your love, it builds us up and keeps us rooted,  
Your cross, it gives us constant strength and courage,  
Your flesh, it ever saves us and sustains us,  
Your blood, it flows to cheer us and renew us.

*Firmes en la fe...*

Your hands, they hold us when we have been wounded,  
Your eyes, they purify the way we see things,  
Your lips, they speak to us words of forgiveness,  
Your feet, they guide our steps to find life's fullness.

*Firmes en la fe...*

Your breath, it is the breeze that blows from heaven,  
Your smile, it is the sign of grace and blessing,  
Your precious wounds, they are love's burning embers,  
Your sorrows are the price of our souls' ransom.

*Firmes en la fe...*

Your face is like an icon of life's fullness,  
Your countenance is light from death returning,  
Your death, it is the reason for my living,  
The baptism of my flesh in your salvation.

*Firmes en la fe...*

Your glory is our future, men and women  
Who, aided by your grace, go forth together;  
Your Church, a house which has a thousand doorways,  
A house built on your rock, so firmly rooted.

*Firmes en la fe...*

We are the young, and Mary journeys with us,  
And like a joyful bride she sings your praises;  
With her we too shall sing and praise your triumph,  
Because already death has been defeated.

*Firmes en la fe...*

Go to the [official website](#) and play the hymn - we plan to sing it at our next gathering in April! For the musicians among you, click on the links and you'll also find the music score to practise.

.....A message from Mons. Cesar Franco, Auxiliary Bishop of Madrid and author of the lyrics of this hymn...

We know that you young people want to sing and celebrate life, and this is exactly what we are offering you in the hymn: to sing to and celebrate Christ, Life of the world. We invite you to celebrate the faith that has saved us and allows us to be part of the same Christ, part of his body, travelling throughout the world as a huge procession of the redeemed. Yes, we shall sing to Christ as we walk, just as Mary did. Sing and walk!

...A message from Pope Benedict....

“Try each day to follow Christ’s word. Listen to him as a true friend with whom you can share your path in life. With him at your side, you will find courage and hope to face difficulties and problems, and even to overcome disappointments and set-backs.”

## MORE FROM OUR LEADERSHIP TEAM

*In our previous newsletters we've introduced most of our leaders to you. Here are a few words from the remaining two, Aidan and Madeleine.*

Hi there, my name is **Aidan Godwin** and I was fortunate enough to have been asked to be a Team Leader for WYD08 in Sydney, and I am very excited to be asked to take part with this trip to Madrid.

I am a real drama geek and take part in several productions throughout the year from pantomime, comedies, plays and musicals. I worked at Thorpe Park for 10 years working as a manager in the Rides department, training staff and

operating rides. I am now at uni doing a PGCE teacher training course to become primary school teacher. I love my sport, especially tennis and football. I look forward to meeting you all and hope you are as excited as I am to be attending WYD Madrid. Bring it on!

I'm **Madeleine MacDonald**, am nineteen and live in Ashted near Epsom. I'm in my second year of uni studying French and Italian. I like travelling to other countries, and playing flute and piano. This is my first year of going to WYD and I'm very excited to meet all the other pilgrims!

**Sr. Oneng Mendoza** hails from the Philippines and is currently living in Ladywell Convent - the Motherhouse of the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood. She is the vocations animator for the English/Scottish Region. She is part of our Leadership Team, providing pastoral support. Here's her story.



*Sister Oneng at a Youth Event*

I never dreamt of being a Sister. After finishing my nursing course I went to a hospital in Thailand to gain more experience in order to go to the USA. At night, whilst waiting for emergency calls to the operating theatre, to stay awake I listened to tapes by Fr. Thomas Green SJ, entitled "Openness to God", in which he spoke of how to quieten the mind and body. I began to follow his suggestions and slowly came to realise that prayer was not so much talking as listening.

After a while, to ease my longing for God, I attended a

series of "search-in" sessions with the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood. Their Franciscan spirit of adventure and simplicity invited me to let go of my own dream and to allow God's dream for me to be realised. The idea of going to the USA faded away.

Witnessing the total commitment of my parents to their vocation of marriage gave me the courage to follow the Spirit's promptings, which brought me into the FMDM international congregation. Here we, as dedicated women, strive to deepen our personal relationship with God by slowly becoming steeped in Gospel values underpinned by

the spirit of St. Francis and, like him, we serve God wherever and however He wishes.

Everyone has a vocation and I would encourage you to prepare a quiet place in your hearts where God's spirit can speak to you and guide you.

May the Lord give you His peace.

**PS** I did go to Chicago, USA in 1997 as a sister to represent Caritas Manila in the American National HIV/AIDS Conference, by giving a talk/sharing to so many people involved in the ministry of Promoting awareness on HIV/AIDS and pastoral care for people affected by the pandemic. So, yes, dream dreams and let God fulfil them!!



## FOOD FOR THOUGHT!

### Churros

These are a popular breakfast food, often bought from street vendors. They're like a fried-dough donut kind of thing! There are two types of *churro* in Spain, a knotted kind and, in Madrid, a longer, thicker kind called a *porra*.

#### INGREDIENTS

250 ml boiling water

a pinch of salt

250 gr flour

hot oil to fry churros

Sugar to sprinkle on

#### PREPARATION

Boil the water in a pan, add flour + salt to the boiling water, mix (turn off the heat) until dough starts to come away from the sides of the pan. Put into a pastry tube or cake decorator while warm, squeeze out to about 10 centimetres in length. You can also simply roll between your hands once the mixture has cooled down a little and fry for 2-3 minutes in (not *too*) hot oil. Make sure you roll the *churros* quite thinly, or the outside will cook before the inside, the inside will try to expand and won't be able to due to the crust that will already have formed on the outside, and they will eventually explode! Allow to drain on paper, then sprinkle with sugar and serve warm.



avlyz's photostream

These are delicious dunked in Spanish melted chocolate (Spanish chocolate has flour in it making it thicker when melted).

Feliz desayuno!

Marcy Sanchez

## FUNDRAISING NEWS



This time last year we held a lottery at the Youth Office to raise money for central funds, and are considering a walk along the south coast of the diocese. A fantastic amount of fundraising has been going on throughout the diocese, with a huge amount of hard work and effort. We are so impressed and pleased to hear of your efforts. We've heard about discos, organ and music recitals, Thai meals, dinner dances, carol concerts, card-making, a Rich Man, Poor Man lunch, car washes, a talent show, race nights, Christmas raffles—the list goes on! Well done to everyone!

## FUN FACTS

### Salamanca's lucky frog!

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/samlkelly/>



Many of Salamanca's buildings are very beautiful, with very detailed facades. The University's main entrance is one such decorated building. On the main facade, among all the figures and small details you will find a frog. The legend says that students who find the frog will pass their exams, and those who aren't students will have good luck. If you want to try and find the frog—good luck! It takes a long while if no-one points it out to you first. If you don't manage to find it, you can always buy one of the many frog souvenirs you'll see in shops around the town....



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