

# On the Way

FALL 2023  
Issue No. 10



A PUBLICATION OF THE






ARCHDIOCESE OF  
WINNIPEG

# On the Way

FALL 2023  
Issue No.10



1495 Pembina Highway  
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R3T 2C6  
(204) 452 – 2227  
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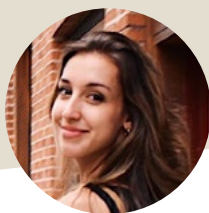
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**EDITOR**  
Gloria Nikolic

**DESIGN**  
Raissa Bado

## EDITOR'S NOTE



**GLORIA NIKOLIC,**  
Interim Director of Communications Services,  
Editor of On the Way Magazine

The fall season consistently brings with it change, and for me, that is truer this year than it has ever been. Instead of hopping on a bus and beginning another school year, I am writing to you from the Catholic Centre, where I have begun my role as Interim Director of Communications while Janelle Lafantaisie is away on maternity leave. As I think about change, I'm realizing a couple of things. Firstly, that it is inevitable. Summer becomes fall whether we want it to or not; fall becomes winter, while most of us here in Manitoba definitely want it not to; New university graduates become rookie editors for Catholic Archdiocesan Magazines. Change can also bring many emotions with it, especially if the change is new and outside of our comfort zone. But I think that so often, we forget that change goes hand-in-hand with transition. While change requires our trust in God, transition requires our cooperation with His plan.

Our Church has a profound understanding of the seasons of life and emphasizes the importance of embracing change. We mark the seasons through the liturgical calendar, moving through Advent, Christmas, Lent, Easter, and Ordinary Time. Each season invites us to reflect, adapt, and grow in

our spiritual journey, offering an opportunity for transformation and renewal. Change, though it can be challenging, is always an opportunity to seek a deeper connection with the Divine. It encourages us to seek God's guidance, relying on the Church's teachings and the Sacraments to provide spiritual sustenance during times of change and transition.

While we grapple with change, we are reminded that Christ's own life was marked by profound change, from his birth in Bethlehem, to his crucifixion and resurrection. His life story is a testament to the transformative power of faith and love, even in the face of extreme difficulty and adversity.

I have been so inspired by the stories shared in this issue of On the Way. Our delegates from World Youth Day have brought back with them such powerful and uplifting stories. Their fearless pursuit of faith and readiness to adapt and grow reminds me that change, even in its uncertainty, is a huge gateway to spiritual development. Our faith isn't about knowing all the answers, but about having confidence in the One who does.

As you navigate changes in your own life, may this publication be a source of encouragement.

*Gloria Nikolic*



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## Dominique Gougeon-Gagnon

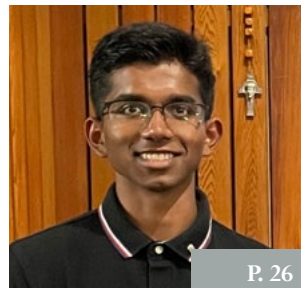
Dominique Gougeon-Gagnon is a student at Université de Saint-Boniface and the catechetical coordinator at Holy Cross Parish. She finds the most joy in being with her family and children/youth at her parish.



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## Fr. Wojtek Stangel

Fr. Wojtek Stangel OMI priest in the Congregation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate currently working in Holy Ghost Parish in Winnipeg. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2012 in Poland and after the ordination was sent to work in Canada. Before he came to Winnipeg he worked in Mississauga, Halifax and Brampton.



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## Hermon D'Souza

Hermon is currently studying at the University of Manitoba. For the past decade he's been part of a prayer group called Jesus Youth. If you're interested and would like to come and see, well you're in luck. They meet every second and fourth Friday at St. Bernadette's Parish from 7 to 9. This however is only for Young Adults, who are in University or Graduated and not married yet. If this is you, and you know that as Catholics "iron sharpens iron" and that we all need a community. Then come on out.



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## Katrine Buissé

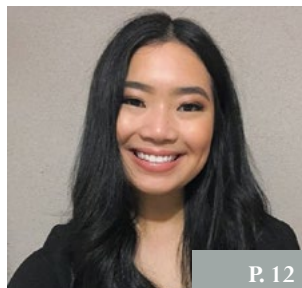
Katrine was born and raised just on the outskirts of Selkirk, Manitoba where her family has a grain farm. She grew up attending Selkirk schools although her home parish is Saint Boniface Cathedral. Katrine is now in her sixth and last year of University at Université de Saint-Boniface where she is hoping to pursue a career in education. She hopes that her education degree will bring her the opportunity to teach in a Manitoba Catholic School where she can share both her passion for teaching and her love for Christ with others.



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## Paulo & Maria Borges

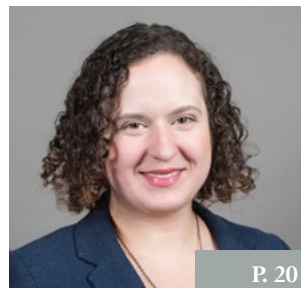
Mária and Paulo celebrated their 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of marriage this past May. They have been blessed with four children: Benjamin (13), Sebastian (10), Amalia (7), and Felix (5). Currently, Mária works as a Dental Hygienist and teacher as she homeschools her children. Paulo teaches in the Religion department at St. Paul's High School in Winnipeg. He also directs one of the Choir classes and co-coaches Soccer. They volunteer at various roles in Liturgy at St. Bernadette parish in the St. Boniface Diocese.



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## Veronica Diestro

Veronica Diestro is the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Coordinator of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. She works with parishes, ministries, and catholic schools to help young people grow in faith and empower them to live out their faith. Veronica is involved in her home parish of Our Lady of Victory Memorial Parish and is part of the Parish Pastoral Council. She is a former leader in youth ministry and is currently serving as a leader in the young adult ministry of Couples for Christ - Singles for Christ (SFC).



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## Tyyne Petrowski

Tyyne Petrowski is the Director of Archives for the Archdiocese of Winnipeg. She has a BA (Hons) in History and Catholic Studies, and an MA in Archival Studies. She is the mother of two children, and enjoys cooking, baking, reading, and travel. She is a member of Our Lady of Victory Memorial Parish in Winnipeg.

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# WORLD YOUTH DAYS ARE

## *for the Young and the Old!*

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*Archbishop, are you coming with us to World Youth Days in Lisbon?* This question, posed by our Archdiocesan Youth Coordinator, struck me as a surprise because I thought that I had passed the age for the kind of physical endurance required for such an event. I knew what this was all about because I had already attended 4 World Youth Days (WYD's) and the last one was 12 years ago! But seeing the effort that was going into organizing the 28 pilgrims from the Archdioceses of Winnipeg and St. Boniface, I took a leap of faith and said, "yes". It was a decision I would not forget!

St. John Paul II was a remarkable Pope. World Youth Day is the result of how he lived his life as a bishop in Poland. He would often go into the wilderness with groups of youth, pitch a tent, build a fire, camp under the stars, go canoeing, fishing, say Mass on a tree trunk, spend time talking about life, and hiking in the mountains! One day as Pope he decided to do something similar but with the youth of the world! This pattern was repeated in Portugal. Our 28 pilgrims, along with hundreds of thousands of others, hiked many kilometers across Lisbon to the exposition grounds where the Pope would come for the evening vigil service and then, next morning celebrate the final Mass. One member of our group said it was the biggest sleep over she had ever experienced! Can you imagine waking up early in the morning and peering around to see 1.5 million people in sleeping bags all about you!

Every WYD has a theme that serves as a biblical motif. For Lisbon, this theme was: **"Mary arose and went with haste"** (Luke 1:39). The passage refers to Mary's enthusiasm for going to greet her cousin Elizabeth, also expecting a child, and Pope Francis used this passage as a reflection on the call to follow Jesus. A very good theme for World Youth Days! Amid so many problems

present in the world today and the challenges facing our youth, Pope Francis turns to the example of Our Blessed Lady, as a special person who shows all of us, especially the young (as she was young herself), the path towards being near to the needs of others and being near to God and encountering Him. Pope Francis believes, just as did Popes Benedict and St. John Paul II, that World Youth Days offer a new beginning of faith for the youth and, through the youth, for many people around the world.

The spiritual fruits of World Youth Days are many and go beyond the graces received by those who attend WYD's. In fact, millions more people connected with WYD on the internet and then there is also the evangelization that occurs when the pilgrims return to their own dioceses and families. Bishops too, along with priests and religious, are influenced by the faith of the youth and become evangelizers of the Gospel in new ways. St. John Paul II once said: **With our gaze fixed on Christ, strengthened by hope that does not disappoint, let us journey together along the paths of the new millennium.** Like Mary, we too are temples of the Holy Spirit, and the World Youth Day experience causes us to want to arise and take the Good News to others -Mary and each of us are the Church that goes forth!

Pope Francis was very well received in Portugal, and he was present at 4 huge gatherings. Each of us had a small transistor radio to enable us to listen to his homilies which were never long but very much to the point and challenging. I was also impressed by the thousands of youth volunteers from Portugal and other countries who looked after logistics and hospitality. I remember going several times to what was called, "City of Joy" – a park designated for the

celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Can you imagine hundreds of confessionals with priests from every language group offering reconciliation to tens of thousands of penitents every day? I asked one young lady who was helping with the logistics of it all: *What is your experience like doing this?* And she responded: *It is very humbling!*

There are so many stories to tell about WYD in Lisbon 2023, but I will leave others to do that on the pages of this magazine. What I will say, however, is that Mary's example of *arising in haste* is very important. For the younger generation today Mary does the opposite from that which many people of all ages are tempted to do today: getting caught up with ourselves, focused on the digital screen that is always before us. Instead, Mary is the one who goes out into the light of the world, she goes to encounter God, to encounter others on the road and especially those in need, like her cousin Elizabeth.

On one of our free days following WYD, our group took a day trip to Fatima where Mary appeared to the three children in 1917. This was a remarkable day, and very fitting for us, as these days in Portugal had been dedicated to Our Lady in a special way.

So often people arise today to make haste to satisfy themselves, to bring advantages to themselves, to be esteemed by others and to be better than others. World Youth Day in Lisbon had a different message-it is to **arise and make haste to encounter others and bring them news about Jesus Christ**. Pope Francis says: **May the Holy Spirit kindle in your hearts a desire to arise and the joy of journeying together in faith, leaving falsehood behind!** Yes, World Youth Days are very much for all ages!

# Pause for Prayer

## OFFICIAL PRAYER FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023:

Our Lady of the Visitation,  
you who left in haste towards the mountain to  
meet Elizabeth,  
lead us also to meet all those who await us  
to deliver them the living Gospel:  
Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord!

We will go in a hurry, with no distraction  
or delay,  
but with readiness and joy.  
We will go peacefully, because those who take  
Christ take peace,  
and wellbeing is the best wellbeing.

Our Lady of the Visitation,  
with your inspiration, this World Youth Day  
will be the mutual celebration of the Christ we  
take, as You once did.

Make it a time of testimony and sharing,  
fraternization, and giving thanks,  
each of us looking for the others who always wait.  
With you, we will continue on this path  
of gathering,  
so that our world will gather as well,  
in fraternity, justice and peace.

Help us, Our Lady of the Visitation,  
to bring Christ to everyone, obeying the Father, in  
the love of the Spirit!





# FINDING MY FAMILY

## *in Christ*

When I signed up to be a pilgrim for World Youth Day (WYD) in Portugal, I went with two intentions in mind. The first was to meet more Catholic youth who shared the same faith and belief system as me, and the second was to ignite a fire of faith in my soul.

I very quickly felt, by being a part of the Archdiocese of Saint-Boniface and the Archdiocese of Winnipeg group, that I had formed much more than friendships amongst my fellow pilgrims; we truly became a family in Christ. There were multiple times throughout our two weeks together when I truly felt the sentiment of the love of a family. The first time I felt it was throughout our time at “Days in the Diocese” in Portimão, Portugal. During this event, we had a time of fraternity where we prayed together as a group, shared personal testimonies, and shared our struggles in our personal life and faith. This time of fraternity was very special to me. I learned a lot about the people who were journeying with me, and I felt

a very strong yearning to pray for them as I knew they would also be praying for me. I also felt this family-like love when I got sick with the flu during a part of our trip in Lisbon, Portugal. I stayed in one morning to get rest in order to be able to rejoin my group at the Welcoming Celebration for Pope Francis later that afternoon. When I was finally able to reunite with them, I was warmly welcomed with hugs, medication, words of concern for my health, and multiple “we missed you’s”. While we waited patiently for Pope Francis that afternoon in the hot Portuguese sun, I looked around at the people in my group and truly felt loved. I knew that the Lord had blessed me with not only a group of Catholic youth who shared the same faith as me but with brothers and sisters in Christ who truly loved me and cared for me. I was lucky enough to have my biological brother, Father Serge Buissé, in our pilgrimage group. I remember signing up to go to WYD, not really knowing anyone other than my brother, and







thinking at least I had him. While I feared not creating friendships with the other pilgrims, I knew having my brother with me would be comforting. Once we arrived in Portugal, I was, surprisingly, with the other pilgrims much more than my biological brother, and I am truly thankful for that, as I was forced to push myself out of my comfort zone and felt free to truly get to know the others around me. It is funny looking back at your previous thoughts and fears. If I could go back, I would tell myself not to worry, for the Lord will provide much more than friendships - a loving family-like bond amongst us pilgrims.

Looking back at my two weeks at WYD, I can see the countless blessings the Lord put in my path in order to ignite a fire of faith in my soul. These blessings came from charism workshops, daily Mass, adoration,

reconciliation, conferences, exhibits, conversations with the clergy and religious, and so much more.

I came home with a completely different mindset on my faith and the habits I knew I needed to break in order to allow more room for Christ in my life. During our day trip to Fatima, Portugal, while praying at the Marian shrine, I received this beautiful message where our heavenly mother told me to turn to her as my mother, to lean on her and receive her love.

As you can see, the Lord responded to my intentions much more powerfully than I had ever anticipated. I am taking so much with me from WYD, but I think the most beautiful gift I received was that my “family” grew tremendously. By the time I returned to Canada, I gained a relationship with my Spiritual Mother, Mary, and gained 27 brothers and sisters in Christ.

# THE SCORE IS

## *Always in God's Favour*

### A WORLD YOUTH DAY LOVE STORY

#### *She Said:*

I came to Canada on August 5, 2001. The Church was my safe place. I did not know many people as I moved from Slovakia. I came as a live-in nanny, and the family I worked for moved from Vancouver to Richer, MB.

I started attending a church in Ste. Anne, Manitoba, every Sunday and slowly met families there. As I didn't know many young people, I was hoping that through joining the World Youth Day group, I would meet more people and make more friends, which I did.

Going to World Youth Day was not in my comfort zone, but I felt it would be good for me. I enjoyed meeting new friends during our meetings, and during our retreat, I noticed a certain young man, very good-looking. I didn't think much of him, until our first day in Toronto, during WYD, when I was officially introduced to him. We went on to spend five hours in line together for our lunch.

I enjoyed our long chat and hoped for more conversations with him. Looking back at this encounter, I am sure I was called by the Holy Spirit to come to World Youth Day so I could meet my husband.

#### *He said:*

Don't keep score with God.

At the turn of the millennium, I left a secure, well-paying job to enter youth ministry full-time. Struggling with loss and grief, I challenged God: What did He have in store for me? What was my vocation?

Almost three years later, in the spring of 2002, I was frustrated with God. My time at the parish was ending with little to show for "my" efforts. Youth ministry is difficult, but I was especially discouraged when only six parishioners signed up for World Youth Day in Toronto (WYD).

Honestly, I also did not want to go. I dislike big crowds. It's smart to stay home as a contact for the pilgrims. These were all excuses, really, shades of Jonah trying to brush off God.

The Yiddish proverb, "Man plans, God laughs," applies here.

A month before WYD, our chaperone stepped down. Reluctantly, but as promised, I assumed the role. We were a small group, so we joined other parishes for a final retreat before the pilgrimage. I was feeling sorry for myself and didn't notice much, but I put on a happy face.

On the first day in Toronto the Spirit opened my eyes and heart. Our leader asked if I could pick up lunch for a youth from another small group. I said, “sure.” What else could I say? Then he introduced me to the young lady’s chaperone, Mária. I was thunderstruck.

God put us in a six-hour lineup for the first meal of the week. We spoke the entire time. That first night, I hardly slept. School floor aside, my heart and mind were racing.

Near the end of the week, we gathered for praise and worship before the Blessed Sacrament. We were in a big hall, but I could see two of my sisters in the praise and worship team. During quiet prayer, the team dispersed among the gathered. As I closed my eyes, I felt my sister’s hand on my shoulder. And the dam broke. The tears flowed and my body shook with sobs. I finally released three years of anger, sadness, and desire for control- “Your will, Lord”.

Soon after WYD, Mária became an irreplaceable part of my life. As He did for so many others, God used the Holy Father as our matchmaker: JPPII, we love you!

This past May, we celebrated 18 years of marriage and continue to praise God for the gift of each other and our children. Indeed, His generosity has no equal. The score is always in God’s favour.





# WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

## Lisbon, Portugal

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*“Mary arose and went with haste.”*

– Luke 1:39

**“Only one thing is free: the love of Jesus! So, with this free gift that we have – the love of Jesus – and with the desire to carry on the journey, let us walk in hope, let us be mindful of our roots, and move forward, without fear. Do not be afraid.”**

– Pope Francis

The love of God is magnified when we live our lives according to His will. World Youth Day is a living testament of God’s magnified love – it’s an experience of the Universal Church, being one with our brothers and sisters from all over the world and encountering God. My heart is filled with joy, and I am reminded of the abundant love God has for us.

“World Youth Day is truly a life-changing experience.” I often heard this from people who have participated in previous World Youth Days, and it was a gift to experience it in a profound way. Core memories and beautiful experiences are what come to mind when I look back at World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal. Over a million people gathered for the same reason, and this to encounter the Lord and grow in our relationship with Him. Being part of the overnight Vigil and closing Mass, I was surrounded by my brothers and sisters in Christ who radiated the love of God. Each person was brought something different with them, and we were able to receive something from God that was meant for our own journey. My love for the Lord was magnified, and my love for our Catholic faith was magnified.

“Friendly Family of Faith” was what our delegation stood for and what we hoped to bring as a group through our encounters. There were 28 people in our delegation, and throughout the two weeks, we became closer and grew in friendship with one another – we indeed became a “friendly family of faith.” We took care of one another, prayed for each other, and created lifelong memories. We went through our share of joys and struggles, but together we were able to grow in faith. It was a blessing to be able to walk with my brothers and sisters in Christ, and I’m grateful for this family I journeyed with.

In each moment, in the blessings, and in the trials, I found Christ. In moments of joy, I found Christ; in moments of weakness and vulnerability, I found Christ; and in moments of struggle, I found Christ. The challenges and uncertainties gave me an opportunity to trust and surrender. I found Christ through the Sacraments, through my brothers and sisters who were present, through my visits to the churches, and throughout this entire journey. And above all, I experienced His overflowing love for me.

I remember, during prayer, asking God how I can continue to glorify Him in my life and live out His will for me. The words “Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum” would repeatedly come to my mind. This Latin phrase translates in English to “Be it done to me according to your word.” I was brought to the Annunciation of our Blessed Mother, Mary, and her yes to the Lord. Through her yes, she glorified God in her life and lived a life according to His will. How can we live out the will of God like Mother Mary’s fiat? The answer is with our yes to God and by continuing to live our lives for him. Being able to fulfil God’s will for us involves taking care of our relationship with God so that we

may be guided in our lives. To have a relationship with God, we must make room for Him in our hearts and in our lives. Almost every day that we were in Portugal, the official song for World Youth Day 2023 would be played. The first verse's lyrics were, "And with Mary proclaiming our Yes, we seek to serve and follow the will of the Lord, our Father." With our "yes" and our own fiat, we then go with haste on our own journey, just like the Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. God calls us as we are and not as what we hope to become. As Pope Francis reminded us, "Think of this: Jesus calls me as I am, not as I would like to be."

A pilgrimage, like World Youth Day, is not the only opportunity to encounter Christ. We don't need to wait for another big event to start. We can start now. We can encounter Christ anywhere and everywhere. He's here with us. Christ is at our home, at our church, at our work, at our school, and all places. Therefore, every day is an opportunity for us to love Christ and to share His love. World Youth Day was a reminder to the world that Christ is present everywhere and that there is room for everyone in the Church. Jesus welcomes us with open arms, and if we do not think there's any more room, then we start making room for others by loving them as Jesus loves us.

To glorify God in our lives is to give our "yes" to him as Mother Mary did, and to go with "haste" – to not be still in our lives and waste time, and to not be afraid to encounter, to share, and to love. Every day is an opportunity to willingly offer our lives to God so that He can work through us, and through this, the love of God is magnified.





# A GLOBAL Community

*“Dear young people, Jesus. . . is now looking at you. . . He knows your heart. Today, he says to you, here in Lisbon, at this World Youth Day: “Have no fear, take heart, do not be afraid!”*

*- Pope Francis*

These are the last words from Pope Francis’ homily to the youth of the whole world, a world that is immersed in the fear and uncertainty of tomorrow. In these few simple words, the Pope reminded us of what it means to be in a true relationship with Jesus: it is a life lived well and without fear. Personally, I felt how much these words resonated with me and – I think – for everyone gathered on the fields of Lisbon that day. World Youth Day is always a great experience where everyone takes away something different; someone is touched by a specific event, someone else by a meeting they attended, still someone else by a single sentence or even a word. Yet, it seems to me that the most important experience for all young people is the experience of a global community – the young Church, the knowledge that so many young people belong to Christ and believe in Him.

Just meeting the Pope, seeing him live, and hearing his voice is something you never forget. These meetings are of great value and power. This was my fifth World Youth Day and, God willing, not the last one. What do I take away from this World Youth Day in Lisbon? Joy and hope that life with Jesus is different, that with Him there is no fear and that with Him I am able to love the people I meet daily in my life. Because as Pope Francis said, “There is only one free thing in life: the love of Jesus.”







# Pause for Prayer

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## MESSAGE FROM POPE FRANCIS FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY LISBON 2023

“Mary was motivated by the needs of her elderly cousin. She did not hold back or remain indifferent. She thought more of others than of herself. And this gave enthusiasm and direction to her life. Each of you can ask: “How do I react to the needs that I see all around me? Do I think immediately of some reason not to get involved? Or do I show interest and willingness to help?” To be sure, you cannot resolve all the problems of the world. Yet you can begin with the problems of those closest to you, with the needs of your own community. Someone once told Mother Teresa: “What you are doing is a mere drop in the ocean”. And she replied: “But if I didn’t do it, that ocean would have one drop less”.

When faced with concrete and urgent needs, we need to act quickly. How many people in our world look forward to a visit from someone who is concerned about them! How many of the elderly, the sick, the imprisoned and refugees have need of a look of sympathy, a visit from a brother or sister who scales the walls of indifference!

What kinds of “haste” do you have, dear young people? What leads you to feel a need to get up and go, lest you end up standing still? Many people – in the wake of realities like the pandemic, war, forced migration, poverty, violence and climate disasters – are asking themselves: Why is this happening to me? Why me? And why now? But the real question in life is instead: for whom am I living?  
(cf. *Christus Vivit*, 286).”

# HOLY ROSARY PARISH

## *Celebrates their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!*

When Holy Rosary Parish celebrated their 90th Anniversary with a spectacular gala dinner, more than a thousand people attended to support and celebrate the occasion. This fall, the parish put on another grand celebration for the momentous occasion of their 100th Anniversary on Saturday, October 14 at the Convention Centre.



In addition to the gala dinner and dance, Father Sam Argenziano, parish priest at Holy Rosary, has implemented a couple of other phases to commemorate the celebration in a significant way. There were three phases announced, and they included: a social justice project, a church renovation project, and finally, the gala dinner. The parish has already set its proposed phases into motion; they have gone on to sponsor two Ukrainian families, repainted most of the church with the help of a generous donation, and celebrated with a Gala dinner and Anniversary Mass, October 14-15.

### ON THE HISTORY OF HOLY ROSARY...

Before there was a designated Italian parish that was able to organize galas and dinners, the Italians of Winnipeg worshipped at St. Mary's Cathedral. In July 1911, they finally congregated under the direction of Father Ferdinando Anzalone, OMI, who gathered them in the French-Canadian parish of the Sacred Heart. From there, Fr. Anzalone went on to rent a small church building, and thus was born Holy Rosary Parish. On October 7th, 1923, His Grace, Archbishop Arthur Sinnott, consecrated the church situated at the corner of Sherbrook and Bannatyne Streets for Catholic Worship, and from that moment on, the Italians of Winnipeg would have their own church.

With the influx of Italian immigrants during the 1950s and 60s, Holy Rosary Parish continued to grow. It eventually grew to be the focal point of the Italian Community, most importantly for worship, but also for many of their social gatherings. Various clubs and committees were formed, and many fundraisers occurred; these included socials, bazaars, numerous spaghetti dinners, teas, plays, and concerts. The parish was also well known for its hockey, softball, basketball, and soccer sports teams. A particularly memorable event was when their Young People's Group entered

Building of the New Holy Rosary Church 1966-1967





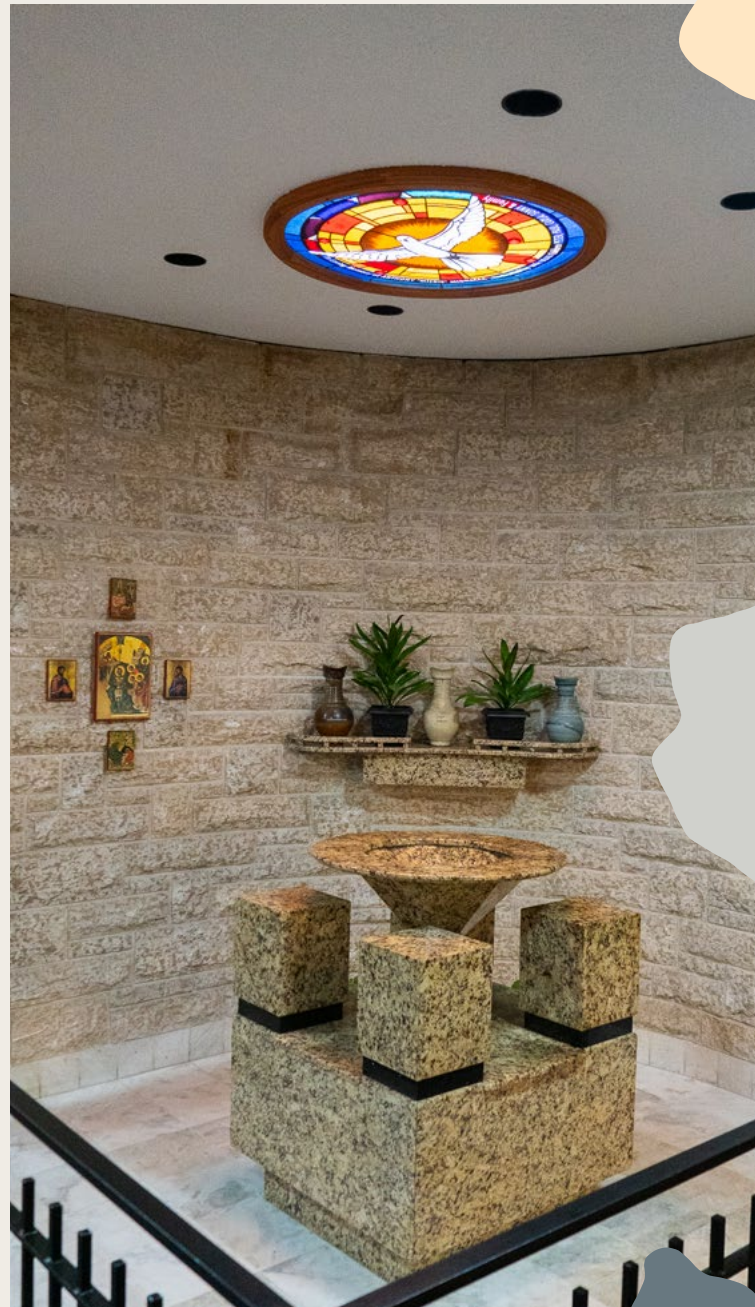
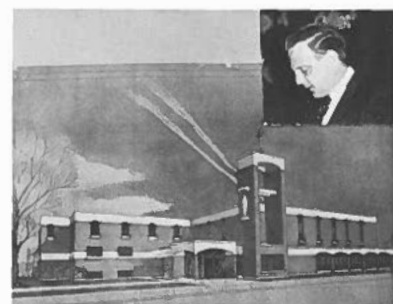


a float in the City of Winnipeg's 75th Anniversary Parade. The group of young Italians performed at many of the anniversary's events. It was reported by news outlets that "they sang and danced their way into Winnipeg's hearts."

In 1995, the Servite Order announced that after almost 60 years of service to the people of Holy Rosary, they needed to leave Winnipeg due to a shortage of priests. In August of that year, Holy Rosary welcomed their new Pastor, Father Sam Argenziano, the first Diocesan Priest to Serve Holy Rosary since 1937. As Holy Rosary celebrates 100 years, it continues to be a very active and vibrant parish serving not only the Italian Community, but also the spiritual needs of many other cultures. The parishioners at Holy Rosary are truly blessed to have Fr. Sam Argenziano as the "Shepherd of [their] Flock."



Italian Red Cross Ball Winnipeg February 24, 1916







*Feature article continued.*

### ABOUT FR. SAM...

Known and beloved by many, Father Sam Argenziano has “shepherded the flock” at Holy Rosary for a total of 26 years out of the 100 that it has existed. While he has spent a significant and valuable amount of time in Winnipeg, Fr. Sam originally hails from New York.



He was born and raised on Staten Island, in the hilly countryside. “You could hear the crickets there,” says Fr. Sam. He entered a high school seminary upon finishing grade 8. From there, he went on to complete high school, novitiate, and philosophy. He came to Canada and proceeded to study at the Toronto School of Theology and earned his Master of Divinity in March of 1978. He was ordained a deacon at St. Peter’s Parish in Winnipeg on May 13th of that same year. He was ordained to the priesthood on February 15, 1979. He served as assistant and as pastor at St. Edwards Parish, then became pastor at St. Anthony of Padua Parish, and eventually was appointed to Holy Rosary Parish in August 1995. He has now been at the parish for 26 years and counting. Over the course of his time at Holy Rosary, Fr. Sam states that he’s seen the parish go from “Italian national to Italian generational.” Fr. Sam himself is a second-generation Italian and was only fluent in Italian once he came to Holy Rosary. Due to societal pressures that his parents had being immigrants, Fr. Sam did not get the Italian language passed on to him. “However, I knew I wanted to cling to what my parents lost,” he stated. The growth and vibrancy that the Italian parish has experienced under his leadership is evidence that he did indeed manage to not only cling to his parents’ culture but to share and multiply it through his role as pastor of Holy Rosary.



## Pause for Prayer

1 Timothy 4:12-16

“Let no one despise your youth but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. Put these things into practice, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Pay close attention to yourself and to your teaching; continue in these things, for in doing this you will save both yourself and your hearers.



# PAST *World Youth Days*

As we celebrate the joys and experiences of the most recent World Youth Day, we are given the opportunity to look back on the history of the event.

On Palm Sunday 1984, Pope John Paul II invited youth to gather in St. Peter's Square in Rome to celebrate the Holy Year of the Redemption. An estimated 250,000 young people attended that gathering. The following year, which the United Nations had named the International Youth Year, youth were again invited to celebrate Palm Sunday in Rome. This time, an estimated 300,000 participated, and during the gathering, the Pope issued his Apostolic Letter to the Youth of the World, *Dilecti Amici*. Following these successes, in December 1985, the Pope officially instituted World Youth Day, with the first to be celebrated in dioceses around the world on Palm Sunday 1986. Since then, World Youth Day has been acknowledged with a unique theme each year on Palm Sunday. International gatherings occur every two to three years.

It is the international celebrations that have come to be most associated with the idea of World Youth Day, as these bring together young people from around the world to celebrate their faith and build a practical understanding of what it means to be united as a Church with people from all over the globe.

**The following list covers the international gatherings thus far:**

1987 – Buenos Aires, Argentina  
 1989 – Santiago de Compostela, Spain  
 1991 – Czestochowa, Poland  
 1993 – Denver, USA  
 1995 – Manila, Philippines  
 1997 – Paris, France  
 2000 – Rome, Italy  
 2002 – Toronto, Canada  
 2005 – Cologne, Germany  
 2008 – Sydney, Australia  
 2011 – Madrid, Spain  
 2013 – Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
 2016 – Krakow, Poland  
 2019 – Panama City, Panama  
 2023 – Lisbon, Portugal





Over the years, many young people from the Archdiocese of Winnipeg have attended World Youth Day. From Archbishop Wall blessing busses of youth from Manitoba driving to Denver in 1993, to Archbishop Gagnon travelling with the joint diocesan group to Portugal in 2023, participation in World Youth Day has been supported in many ways by the Catholic Centre. On several occasions, diocesan groups have been assembled to travel together, and at other times parish groups have attended international gatherings independently. When Canada hosted World Youth Day in 2002, our Archdiocese joined with dioceses across the country to help host and to transport the official World Youth Day cross around the country.

The photos you see here feature past attendees and scenes from international World Youth Day gatherings attended by young people from our Archdiocese from 2000 up to 2016. Many thanks to Mary Badajos, Christian Martinez, Tyyne Petrowski, Wesley Petrowski, Judith Vasquez, Justony Vasquez, Julie-Rose Vuong, and Maurel Zamora for sharing photos from over twenty years of World Youth Day joy! We hope that you enjoy this look back as youth begin preparations for the next international gathering in 2027 in Seoul, South Korea.



# FACE-TO-FACE

## *With a Miracle*

*“Friend, if God calls us by name, it means that for Him none of us is a number but a face and a heart.”*

*- Pope Francis*

For me, this is the quote that describes my World Youth Day experience. Stepping into this pilgrimage, I had no idea what to expect. On top of that, I was leading the delegation! However, knowing that Veronica Diestro was co-leading with me gave me the confidence I needed. In the days leading up to World Youth Day, my life had become full of printing off documents, packing everything except the kitchen sink, and of course, lots of excitement. Then, all of a sudden, we're on the flight, and I see Portugal! I proceeded to yell this out to Veronica, who was on the other side of the plane. That moment was so awesome, to see the land with so much Catholic history. One of these historical moments is the Eucharistic miracle in Santarém. This Eucharistic miracle began with a woman stealing the Eucharist. Then it started to bleed. So, she proceeded to hide it in her trunk in her room. During the middle of the night, the trunk started to emanate these bright rays of light, and at once, the priest was called, and the Eucharist was taken back to the church. To this day, at certain times, the host will begin bleeding again before returning to a crystal-like substance.

On our second last night, we had the incredible blessing to go to the church where this Eucharistic miracle happened. This is where this quote from Pope Francis really came true for me. In my parish,

I'm the one who prepares the children for their First Holy Communion. During our classes, we talk about Eucharistic miracles. To be able to be in the country where this actually happened was such a gift. God is a God of surprises and of such abundant love. We walked into this church, not expecting much, and on top of the altar is this little golden box. Little did I know, but in that box is where the relic of the Eucharist is being held. I prayed and was feeling so honoured to be in this church when all of a sudden, the little golden box opens, and an English-speaking priest walks out and starts to celebrate Mass! We were in this church where this amazing miracle happened, and we got to relive that moment by participating in the Mass! There was something so profound about sitting in those pews and hearing the words of consecration, knowing that above him is the real relic of our Eucharistic Lord who physically bleeds. How good is our God! He indeed knows us not as a number but as a face and a heart. For why should this great thing happen to me, that my Lord comes to visit me?









# JESUS, *my Hope*



“What am I doing here? Why am I here?” These are two questions I kept asking myself during the start of World Youth Day. I had many doubts and fears, but God emerged victorious over these troubles. He had a plan for me. It was no accident, but a grace and mercy that I got to be a part of this momentous event. Looking back, I can’t believe that I got to go to beautiful Portugal and walk on the land where the Blessed Mother appeared in Fatima; I can’t believe that I got to go to where St. Anthony was born. I can’t believe that I got to worship God with 1.5 million Catholics!

I wasn’t prepared to have long walks every day in the blazing heat, and choosing to offer it up was new to me. Praying and walking with our Friendly Family of Faith (our motto for our group) was a beautiful thing to be a part of. Having a mix of new challenges and blessings, such as having to be patient amidst the heavy crowds in the metro and at the vigil, was all part of the grace-filled experience. From hearing joyful shouts like “Viva España!” to chants from other pilgrims, to having

a giant sleepover with millions from around the globe, God graced and surrounded me with people who listen and pray, both in joys and sorrows.

Our first week was in Portimão for Days in the Diocese, where we slept on the school floor and walked 30- 40 minutes to our site every day. Many speakers, including Sr. Albertine and Cardinal Tagle, were there. The following quote from one of the speakers struck me: “The question is, do we see Jesus turning to look at us? Many times He does not only turn to look at us, but do we see Him looking at us? Do we allow Him to look at us in a penetrating manner?” This caught my attention. Have I given my full attention to Jesus’ penetrating look of love? Have I allowed Him to come into my heart fully, or do I keep looking in the wrong places, which are filled with my failings, and fear and anxiety of the past and future, instead of being filled with His unending love and mercy? Jesus is ever so close to the lost sheep of His flock. Jesus is the one true desire of our hearts; God writes straight with crooked lines, meaning that His





ways are perfect, but we are not. However, He can still achieve His perfect plan through the imperfect actions of His people. (I added an explanation for that sentence as I've never heard it before and others may not have either. It's so beautiful!)

Our second week was spent in Lisbon for World Youth Day. I've always wanted to see the Pope in person, and I finally got that chance, even though it was only for a few seconds as he passed by to get to the stage. His message of hope to all pilgrims was touching and hopeful for the soul.

"God holds us, and we must trust in this because God is a Father who wants and loves us. We also have great help from the Mother of God, so do not fear. We are loved by the Lord. Mary simply loved, and whoever loves knows."

I met God in the people who I conversed and prayed with, especially with this family I travelled with. God inspired me with His love in their presence.

Mother Mary simply magnified the Lord by her yes and went with haste to share the Good News with all. God also calls us to rise up and to help others rise up when they have fallen. We are called to simply love and do the will of God. Jesus is the Good Shepherd who is present in His Church and has much in store for our lives, Mary is our Mother who never ceases praying and caring for us. **"It's all here, all that is to be done in life: Listen to Him. Listen to Jesus, every secret is there."** -Pope Francis.

Jesus, help me to be faithful, ignite my weak heart, so I can be a light to others. Thank you to all who supported us with your prayers! Please remember us all in your prayers always!





# EXPECT NOTHING, *Appreciate Everything*

Standing right in front, by the barricades, was Joel, the Jesus Youth World Youth Day Coordinator for Canada, and myself. For the next two and a half hours, we waited patiently, all in the hope of seeing the head of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis. While awaiting his arrival, I was reminiscing about how my family and I saw the Pope last year in Edmonton, Alberta. It was a trip we had planned only a few days prior, but a trip that brought my family a lot of healing and grace. Now, I was about to see him again, this time in Lisbon, Portugal. Time passes by quickly when you're relaxing on the ground and playing "Heads Up" on your phone, one of the easiest and most entertaining games. Finally, the Popemobile made an appearance, and Joel and I



were ready, standing there with our phones in hand. His job was to take a selfie, while mine was to film Papa Francisco as he drove by. There we were, both eager to capture this incredible moment up close. As the Pope came nearer, I started the video. The Popemobile came closer and closer. I kept my hand outstretched and gripped my phone with every ounce of strength, making sure I wouldn't drop it as the crowd grew increasingly excited. When the moment came, Joel brought his phone up to take a selfie of us and with Pope. We timed it perfectly. Both of us were ecstatic and so grateful to have that moment captured forever. As everyone does, we checked the photo the second after we took it. We noticed both of us are in the shot, with wide, joy-filled smiles, and the Pope is somewhat in the background. Upon further examination, we noticed all our efforts to perfectly capture the moment were somewhat futile. The picture we worked so hard on getting with the Pope only featured us with the back of Pope Francis' head. But it didn't matter to either of us, as we immediately burst out laughing. It specifically didn't matter to me, because I went into World Youth Day with the motto of "Expect Nothing, Appreciate Everything". These four words helped me embrace every little moment and trial as a blessing from God.

Shortly after this, something beautiful happened. My parents were also attending this World Youth Day, but I did not think I would see them due to the huge crowd. However, as Joel and I were discussing ways to regroup with the rest of the Jesus Youth Canada group, out of the corner of my eye, I saw them. They were sitting on a curb, side by side, leaning on each other like they have been doing for the past two decades. I was overjoyed to see them, and immediately ran up





to them. They were equally surprised and overjoyed to see me. In a crowd of thousands of people, there we were, our little family reunited ... and Joel. We decided to move out of the beating sun, into a shadier area. As we stood in the shade with a view of the giant jumbotron, I reflected on the fact that my parents and I were, once again, with one another and looking at the Pope. God's grace can be defined in many words, but for me in that specific moment, I would describe it as peace and love. Not a lot of words were shared, but we all knew that none of us were going to forget that moment. I hope that one day, I may share more of my testimony and experiences with you.





# THE UNIFIED

## *Glory of God*



World Youth Day was not an all-inclusive holiday, it was not a time of rest, refreshment, or self-care. By the general expectations of the world, it was not even close to what you might think would fill a person with new life. Yet, amidst a million and a half sweaty, exhausted, and sunburnt people, I found what it truly means to be alive again – to be present to the person in front of me, remember the truth of creation, the beautiful reality of humanity, the goodness of God, how to trust, be flexible, emptied, and tired yet full. I learned that God has placed on the human heart a blueprint – a call and a mission as we live this life that

leads back to the depth of who He is and brings us into the unity we were created for. Sitting amongst a crowd of 1.5 million young people representing all areas of the globe, along with the Pope, adoring our God in absolute silence, I wondered what it would be like if our entire human race was unified on that level. My time at World Youth Day reminded me of what we were made for. Yes, life includes long days of walking, celebrating, learning, working, investing in those in front of us, facing our own brokenness – all these things that were part of the experience – yet within all of this, the unified glory of God is found. If



we want to experience life that is truly life, we must be willing to walk the path that brings us here, step out onto the road where we rely on grace together, and let God do deep work in us. The place God calls may be a place where we need to lose some control, learn to trust, bear with one another, and do hard things. But grace is gifted in these places where we come together before God and are emptied of ourselves. He knows the life we were created for and brings us back to it. This life is unity with one another and unity with Him who has loved us into being.





# A BEAUTIFUL *Encounter*

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Ten years ago, members of the St. Edward's Parish Youth Ministry attended World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. At eleven years old, I knew right then and there that this was an opportunity I had to experience for myself. At the time, I had no idea the impact this opportunity would have on my life.

Words cannot fully describe everything I experienced at World Youth Day. If I had to summarize it all, it would simply be a beautiful encounter. It was a beautiful encounter with Christ, with my brothers and sisters in faith, and with myself.

I'll never forget the feeling I had when I saw Pope Francis in person for the first time. I was filled with overflowing joy, to the point where the joy was pouring out of my eyes. I remember trying my best to sneak my way through the crowd so that I could be as close as possible for his arrival. Seeing the Pope filled with joy, smiling, and seeing his hands bless the crowd was one of the most surreal experiences in my life.

Every single mass we participated in was also a surreal experience. The first mass we attended was in Portimão for Days in the Diocese. When all the Bishops and Priests entered wearing their vestments, I began to tear up. Witnessing just how many Bishops and Priests there were in this space was so amazing, and this was only the beginning. Not all our masses were celebrated in English, so we wore headphones and tuned in to the appropriate radio station so that we could follow along and understand the Mass. The translations didn't always work, but that was okay. Even without fully understanding the words being said during Mass, you fully understood in your heart everything that was happening at Mass. Witnessing

everyone celebrate mass in their own way and hearing people respond in their own native tongue was just so beautiful. When we all prayed the Our Father, it was so amazing to hear everyone pray it in their own language. This served as a big reminder to me that we truly are many parts but all one body.

Growing in fraternity with my friendly family of faith (our delegation) is something I will forever hold near and dear to my heart. I did not expect the friendships I made on this pilgrimage to become friendships I look forward to carrying for life. It was already so special experiencing World Youth Day on my own but to experience and grow alongside my brothers and sisters in Christ made this experience even better. It's amazing knowing that some of my favourite memories I've ever made are associated with these individuals and with this amazing group of people.

I've learned a lot during this World Youth Day experience. I learned that free water in Canada is something that I don't appreciate enough, and that I am a slow walker and all the physical training I attempted to do before World Youth Day didn't prepare me enough. But I also learned to live more in the moment and that all the spiritual preparation and anticipation I had (from when I was eleven years old) prepared my heart for World Youth Day. This pilgrimage was life-changing; it has become a core memory in my life, and it is a story that I will gladly continue to share with others. It was inspiring, it was filled with joy, and it was truly everything I was hoping for and more. My World Youth Day experience can only be summarized as a beautiful encounter, and I am so thankful to God that I was given the opportunity to experience it and to go on to share my experience with others.

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