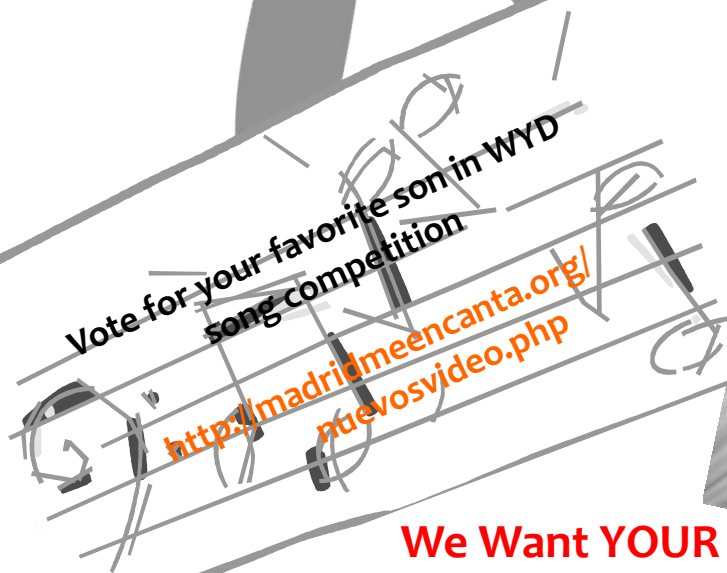


World Youth Day Madrid 2011

Pope is a fan of “the WYD of Social Networks”

Pope Benedict XVI has encouraged Catholics to use social networks in order to “bear witness to the faith.” Social media, he argues, gives everyone a chance to “witness consistently” and to proclaim the gospel through the way “one communicates choices, preferences and judgments that are fully consistent with the Gospel.” An excellent example of the use of social media is the WYD Facebook page. This page has attracted around 214,500 followers and has been translated into over 20 languages. All WYD fans are able to help spread the word about World Youth Day by donating their Facebook statuses on the 21st of each month to WYD. If you are on Facebook, make sure to become a “fan” of WYD. For more information on the pope’s message, look up his address for the XLV World Communications Day.



We Want YOUR WYD Testimony!!

Please send in stories you have about your preparations for WYD: fundraising ideas, spiritual preparation, group activities related to WYD, etc. Let us know what you’re doing to prepare for this event! We would also like to hear your testimonies about either previous WYD experiences and/or your motivations for going to Spain this summer! Please send in your testimony to: wyd@usccb.org

John Paul II to be WYD Patron!

John Paul II has been added to the list of World Youth Day Patron saints following the announcement of his May 1 beatification! He is considered a “friend of the youth” and is the father of WYD, having established it in 1985. John Paul II will join Saints John of the Cross, Ignatius of Loyola, Francis Xavier, Isidore the Worker, Maria of the Head, Rafael Arnaiz, John of Avila, Teresa of Avila, and Rose of Lima in interceding for the youth gathering in Madrid in August!