

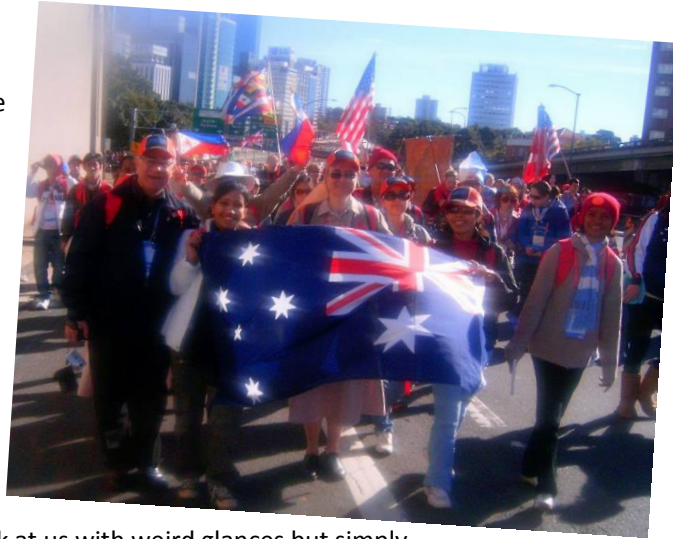
From a WYD SYD 08 Participant

Trust in the Lord, and we will have strength and power to face all the challenges in life.

This is probably the most important thing we should take away from this World Youth Day (WYD) event.

Although thousands of people had come from many different parts of the world, we all shared the same things: one God, one body, one faith and one spirit.

The joy, happiness and the love for one another could definitely be felt during this trip especially during our catechesis gathering, with everyone so enthusiastically cheering and worshipping bringing enormous joy to every one of us. Even though some of us were crazily screaming and yelling during the gathering, nobody would look at us with weird glances but simply with smiles.



The first few days of this event were not easy because we were not used to all the strenuous walking from one destination to the next: *"The journey is as important as the destination"*. This is definitely true! Not only is the journey more important but also a lot more tiring! Partly also because the weather in Sydney was quite unpredictable – like during the afternoon, it could be scorching hot and then freezing cold at night time. The 10km pilgrimage walk was really good in a way that it toughened us physically and spiritually.

There were other amazing things that I experienced such as the reenactment of the last days of Jesus' life and the mass with the Pope. Being able to see him in person is something that very few people can do except during this WYD event. Another wonderful thing about this event was to be able to make friends and connect with them through the same spiritual belief, sharing each of our stories. Also, to be able to see God and his work in each and every one of the people we saw and met during this memorable week.

Despite the ending of this WYD event, my faith and trust in the Lord continues to grow. I have to give thanks to the Lord for bringing me there, and all the helpers and organizers for giving me this opportunity to participate in this major world event. I appreciate all the friends I have made during this trip, and hope to see them soon, hopefully in the coming WYD event in Spain!

Katrina