

World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney

The most memorable parts of World Youth Day for me were:

1. World Youth Day is the first time I walked so much! Especially the 10km pilgrimage walk in addition to the hours of walking I did every day going to mass and going back to the hotel.



2. The first time I saw Pope Benedict XVI I found him quite handsome and very friendly, because he was always smiling and waving out to everyone and he was also able to speak many languages.

When I met the Pope, I had the feeling that I was meeting Jesus because in my opinion, the pope is very close to Jesus and I believe that from Pope Benedict XVI, I could receive the power from Jesus. So I think Pope Benedict XVI is the best person in the world.

3. This is the first time I have met many people from many different countries and I got to see how they showed their love for Jesus in their own unique way of singing songs of praise. And many people were going around giving gifts to each other so that everyone had souvenirs from different countries to remember this great event. Many people were going around giving free hugs to each other, sharing the friendship love with everyone and, not to mention, Sydney was really cold, so hugs spread the warmth around. I really appreciated that. I also got to dance with people of different nationalities and it didn't matter where they came from, as long as the music was happy and mood-lifting, I joined in the crowd to dance. After the mass, I remember running around taking photos with people of different countries and everyone was willing to smile at the camera and to take a photo with a stranger. The concerts after mass were amazing and I learnt new songs especially the song "Receive the Power" which was sung by Guy Sebastian and Gary Pinto. By the end of World Youth Day, everyone in the crowd knew how to sing this song together.
4. This is the first time I had mass with so many bishops, archbishops and the pope himself present, and many people did the readings in their own language, followed by Pope Benedict XVI giving the homily. And, not to mention, the 24 lucky people who received confirmation from Pope Benedict XVI himself.

If I have the opportunity, I would like to attend the next World Youth Day again. Let us continue to put our trust in Jesus because he will never leave us.

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