Vatican
Vatican News
Pope Francis looks to the side in a video screen grab with the Lisboa 2023 World Youth Day lo

Pope Francis records a video message to young people about World Youth Day 2023, which will be held in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 1-6. The video was released Jan. 20, 2023. (CNS screen grab/WYD 2023)



Justin McLellan

Vatican Correspondent

View Author Profile

jmclellan@ncronline.org
Follow on Twitter at @m/McLellan_Js



Catholic News Service

View Author Profile

Join the Conversation

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. Learn more

Vatican City — January 20, 2023
Share on BlueskyShare on FacebookShare on TwitterEmail to a friendPrint

Pope Francis told young people to always "look to the horizon" and open their hearts to other peoples and cultures.

In a video message to the 400,000 participants registered for World Youth Day 2023, the pope encouraged young people not to "put up walls" that close them in but to "thirst for the horizon" that makes them grow.

World Youth Day is scheduled to take place in Lisbon, Portugal, Aug. 1-6. Francis will attend the event and even publicly registered as a participant with the help of two Portuguese college students after praying the Angelus in St. Peter's Square in October.

In the video released Jan. 20, the pope said that even if some young people say they are going to Lisbon "only for tourism," each person attending World Youth Day is going "because deep down, they are craving to participate, to share, to tell their experience and receive the experience of others."

Advertisement

"Open your heart to other cultures, to other young men and women" attending World Youth Day, he told them.

The motto for this year's World Youth Day is a passage from the Luke's Gospel: "Mary arose and went with haste."

In his formal message for WYD 2023, published in September, Francis said that the figure of Mary shows young people "the path of closeness and encounter" at a time when "our human family, already tested by the trauma of the pandemic, is racked by the tragedy of war."