

Tournay, 20th June 2013.

To all of who seek for peace,
PEACE!

The 28th World Youth Day is gathering in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from the 23rd to the 28th of July. Young people from all around the world will meet the Pope and reflect on the following theme: "Therefore go and make disciples of people of all the nations" (Mt 28,19). For this important occasion, I encourage you to pray so that the young people who will participate to this meeting and the Youth from all over the world act as agents of peace.

Pope Jean Paul II the Benefactor asserted on the 18th World Peace Day on the 1st January 1985 that "Peace and Youth go forward together". Talking to the Youth, he said: "The challenge of peace is great, but greater is the reward; for in committing yourselves to peace you will discover the best for yourselves as you seek the best for everyone else. You are growing, and with you peace is growing."

However, in order to completely achieve peace, young generations must be educated to promote it! Young people don't commit spontaneously to the cause of peace, but they will if we strive to educate them to achieve peace, bearing in mind the legacy of the previous generations. Jean Paul II again, in his first message for the World Peace Day of the 1st January 1979 chose the theme "To reach peace, teach peace". In this message, he insists upon three fundamental duties. Firstly: bring visions of peace before the eyes of the youth, promoting multiple examples of peace and showing how great pacific actions are valued nowadays. Secondly: speaking a language of peace, paying attention to language to act upon the heart and avoid the tricks of language. Thirdly: making gestures of peace as it is the practice of peace that leads to peace. These three principles will be the motto of institutions in charge of educating the youth, such as schools, universities, families, churches, means of communication, associations, unions etc. If these institutions do not consciously take responsibility for the education of young people to peace, who will? And if the youth does not bear the flame of Peace, who will?

In consequence, let us follow the official prayer of these World Youth days.

Oh Father, You sent Your Eternal Son to save the world, and You chose men and women, so that through Him, with Him and in Him, they might proclaim the Good News of the Gospel to all nations. Grant us the necessary graces, so that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the joy of being the evangelists that the Church needs in the Third Millennium may shine in the faces of all young people.

Oh Christ, Redeemer of humanity, the image of Your open arms on the top of Corcovado, welcomes all people. In Your paschal offering, You led us, by the Holy Spirit, to encounter the Father as His children. Young people, who are nourished by Eucharist, who hear You in Your Word and meet You as their brother, need your infinite mercy to walk along the paths of this world as disciples and missionaries of the New Evangelization.

Oh Holy Spirit, Love of the Father and of the Son, with the splendor of Your Truth and the fire of Your Love, shed Your Light upon all young people so that, inspired by their experience at World Youth Day, they may bring faith,

*hope and charity to the four corners of the earth, **becoming great builders of a culture of life and peace and catalysts of a new world.** Amen !*

Best wishes,

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