

1A Kof C at WYD Final
Mass with laminated
Pilgrim MTA

Schoenstatt

Rosary Campaign

1 B Logo

NEWSLETTER

Summer 2008 Vol XXI, Issue 2

1 C 4 persons at Waukesha

Australia Welcomes the Pope for WYD

1D Pope at Barangaroo

Photo credit: Kathy Strickland, Metairie, LA

Pope's St Paul Year Impels Journey '08

I try to always accompany you spiritually because your task is so difficult. In addition I send my prayers for a good result for the Schoenstatt message, which Mary has entrusted to you and placed into your hands. If the Heavenly Father strengthens me, I will do as Simon of Cyrene and help carry the burden entrusted to you. *Letter of April 19, 1952, from Deacon John Pozzobon to Father Joseph Kentenich*

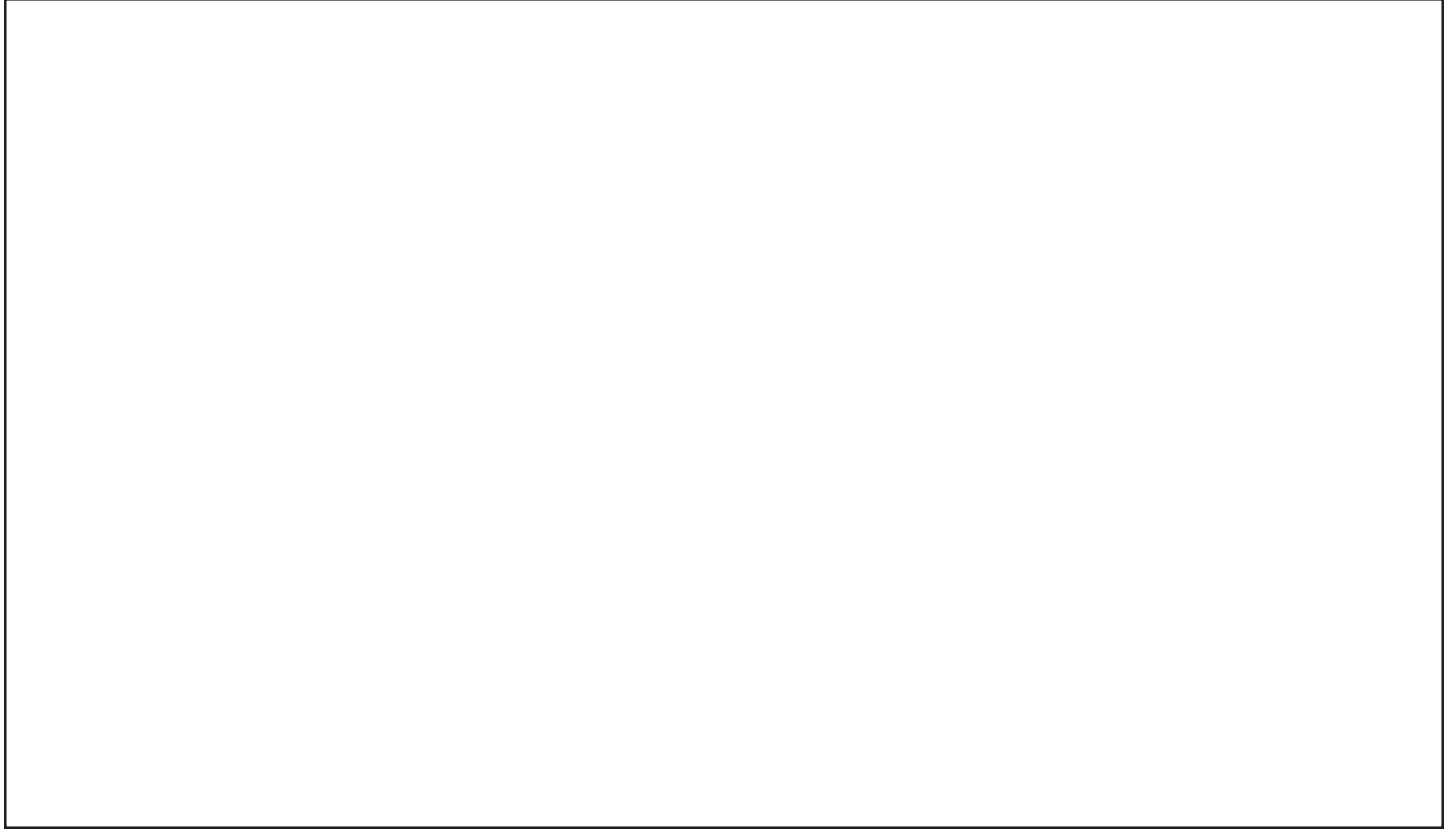
Photo credit: Claire Wathen, Lincoln, NE

Our hearts and minds are yearning for a vision of life where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth, and where identity is found in respectful communion. This is the work of the Holy Spirit! ... Let this be the message that you bring from Sydney to the world! *Pope Benedict XVI, Opening Address to World Youth Day at Barangaroo, July 17, 2008*

Table of Contents	Rosary Meditation..... 7	WYD Journal Entries 14
Contributing Editors 2	Experience WYD Sydney 8	Mulgoa Journal Entries 20
Coordinator Monica Cecil 3	Schedule July 12-27, 2008..... 9	Home-bound from WYD 22
Journey of Love Coverage 4	Words from the Pope 10	Holy Father's Farewell 23
New Group Coordinators 6	Journey '08 Photos 12	Youth Sister Testimonial 23
German Journey Echoes 6	WYD '08 Photos 13	WYD Meditation 24

Coordinators Page

Meet our Contributing Editors from World Youth Day:



Starting on the left forming one line: Alicia Stillwell, Melissa Helt, Katie Larson, Sarah Lippert, Adreianna Spear, Theresa Swedzinski, Sister Jessica Swedzinski, Rose Luminiello, Maria Swedzinski, Mara Gawarecki, Angela Wathen, Rebekah Kisrow, Theresa Villasis, Monica Cecil, Alyssa Loomis, Claire Wathen, and Leesha Plante.

May the vitality, the zest and zeal, and the courageous daring and supporting of our youth, enrich your heart as you read this newsletter. It was such a gift to be able to accompany these young women for two memorable weeks with the World Youth Day Event at Sydney and Schoenstatt International at Mulgoa, Australia!

As a way of gratitude may these pages allow you to Experience WYD Sydney 2008!
From the Founder Shrine, united and working together in the power of the Holy Spirit,
Sister M Jessica

2-B Schoenstatt Int'l Festival
Logo

2-C Sydney Bridge

Schoenstatt is a Catholic lay movement that strives to live the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the example and guidance of Mary. Schoenstatt was founded on Oct 18, 1914, by Father Joseph Kentenich in Schoenstatt, Germany. Its spirituality is based on a covenant of love with Mary, venerated under the title: Mother Thrice Admirable (MTA), Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt.

The Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign, which began in Brazil, is an apostolate of the Schoenstatt Movement which initiates prayer, evangelization, and formation through the traveling Pilgrim MTA. Over 200,000 journey in the world, reaching 14 million persons with shrine graces.

Editor: Sister M Jessica Swedzinski
5825 Cottage Grove Road
Madison, WI 53718-1325

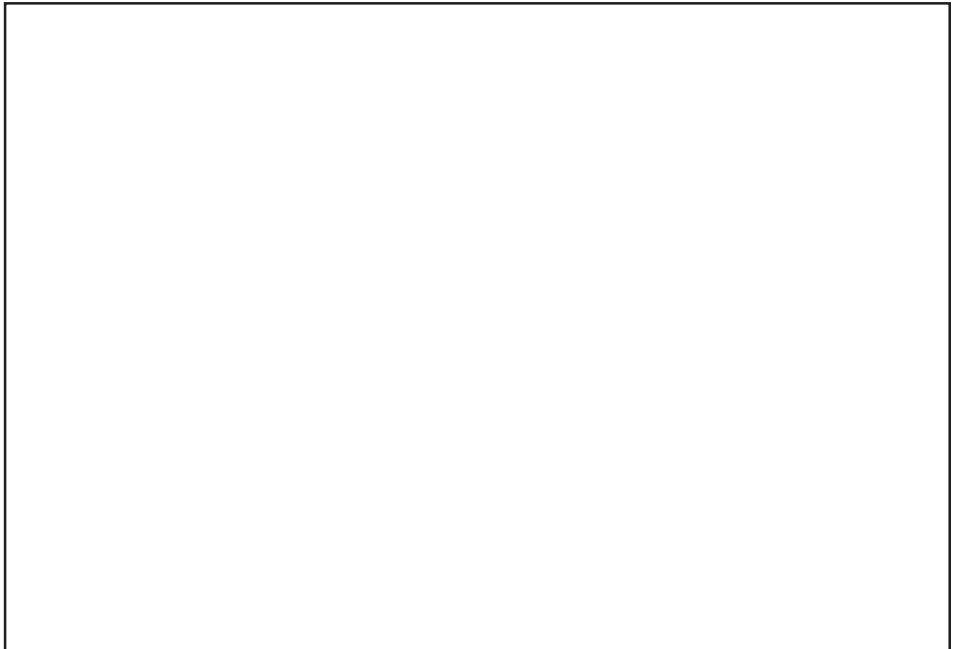
Phone: 608-223-0892 - Home Office
Cell: 608-347-0606

Email: rosary@schsrsmary.org

www.schoenstattrosarycampaign.com

Coordinator Profile *Monica Cecil, Virginia Beach, VA*

Monica stands in the center of their *Spirit and Truth Group*. Members are from St Gregory the Great, St Matthew, and Chapel of the Good Shepherd (Oceana), all in the Richmond Diocese. Deacon Bill, who does Benedictions for the group, is also in this photo which was taken at St Matthew Church.



I got to know about Schoenstatt when I was twelve years old. At that time, my mom coordinated a pilgrim image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which is how I came to pray the rosary often. Since I went to school at St. Gregory's, my mom would always look for new households to host Our Lady of Guadalupe and one woman she approached said that she would have Our Lady if we would take the MTA in exchange. And, so it began! As soon as my mother retired Our Lady of Guadalupe, she coordinated households for Schoenstatt and our MTA for a year. I made my covenant then and renewed it again over ten years later as a young adult, coordinating our MTA on my own since I have been very involved with young adult groups in our area. So, this is my first year coordinating.

I am an only child of two loving parents who will be married 25 years this year. Growing up as a Catholic, my parents didn't have the Catechism memorized or personally tell me about official Church teaching. They very simply taught me how to pray before going to bed daily and never missed Mass. It was also the loving example of my "Lola"—meaning Grandma in Tagalog—who loved the rosary and loved the Blessed Mother. My parents and grandparents are the ones that merely *lived* their Catholic lives which kept me close to God. He has always had a hold on me.

About my work: I work for the accounting department of a construction

and development company in Virginia Beach, Armada Hoffler. Although not a self-proclaimed Christian company, I've found great co-workers who openly talk about having faith in God and the Bible, no matter what denomination they are. I consider myself blessed in finding that in the work place. And we openly celebrate Christmas!

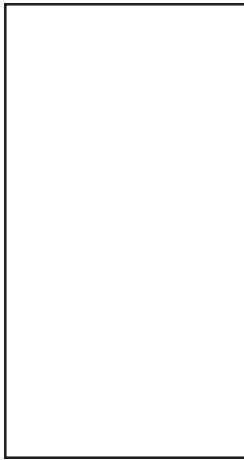
What impresses me about Schoenstatt is that there is something for anyone and everyone, whether a priest, religious brother or sister, or lay person, single or married, at any age. It's focused on the family and prayer. And family doesn't just necessarily mean our blood relatives either. Schoenstatt facilitates fellowship among friends as relatives who share the same name, in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, recognizing all of us as part of a spiritual family. Lastly, it truly feels like recreating the Visitation of Mary to St Elizabeth anytime the MTA is introduced or brought to someone or to an event.

For future plans/dreams I'd like to continue the way in which I've utilized the MTA in Virginia Beach. With young adults finishing or starting school and settling on jobs and vocations, our community is transient at times. Some change roommates or apartments and others get deployed or promoted. For

that reason, I've followed what I interpreted to be the way John Pozzobon probably initially started the rosary campaign. Similar to how he brought the MTA to hospitals, prisons, homes, and churches to fit the needs of the community, the MTA has done more special engagements in Hampton Roads than a fixed rotation. She has gone on spiritual retreats, visited friends for birthdays, and shared the altar with the Blessed Sacrament. Whenever there is an opportunity for her presence, I take her there.

I may not know all Schoenstatt prayers by heart but one in particular that I like is the Holy Spirit prayer, found in the tan prayer book. I used it to close a talk I gave one night for a young adult Adoration group I attend, Spirit and Truth. In the past couple years since graduating from college, I've noticed the Church refocusing a lot of teaching on the third Person, the Holy Spirit. There is also a renewal in this area with Life in the Spirit seminars and most recently, World Youth Day, with the theme being receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. It's a beautiful prayer that asks God for a lot! But, it asks for guidance and graces everyone needs day to day.

Powerful Apostolic Stirrings from June 19-22, 2008



The 16th annual Journey of Love Convention was held June 19-22, 2008, in Waukesha, WI, USA. One hundred twenty five delegates from 17 states, Germany, and Argentina were in attendance. The theme of the convention was

“The Love of Christ Impels Us” (2 Cor 5:14), in preparation for the upcoming Pauline Year as proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI. Each day unfolded a portion of the Schoenstatt Family motto which is: Schoenstatt: One Heart, One Shrine, One Church.

Among the speakers were **Dolores Anders who went with her parents, Ana and Guillermo Echevarria, to pick up the first Pilgrim MTA Shrines** to be sent to the Americas. She began her lively testimony of personally being there with these words:

“It was March of 1984. A group of 30 people left the city of Buenos Aires in Argentina on a special pilgrimage. We were going to Santa Maria, Brazil, to meet John Pozzobon and to receive the 25 Pilgrim MTA Shrines to accompany them to every country in the American Continent.

“As we arrived at Santa Maria and got off the bus, I saw John Pozzobon. He was wearing a light green suit and he greeted each one of us. My first impression of him was of a glowing person. He radiated joy. I thought: I want to listen to this person. I’m interested in discovering what he does to be so happy.

“We listened to his adventures carrying the Blessed Mother to pray the rosary with families. *‘Without missing a single night, even with rain, mud, lightning, thunder, and dark nights,’* he *‘climbed mountains and took risks to cross rivers. Sometimes I was hungry,*

sometimes thirsty, but I never missed a day,’ John explained to us. No wonder people would call him: **John, the fearless.** When he was asked how he thought the campaign would unfold in the next 20 years, he replied: ‘It will be around the world.’”

A memorial rosary on the anniversary of the death of **Sister M Juliana Najarro**, the first known rosary coordinator in the USA, was said at the gravesite.

More subjects included a documentary about Luigi Crosio, the artist who painted our MTA picture, and these talks: *Deacon John Pozzobon – A Heroic Tabor Child:*

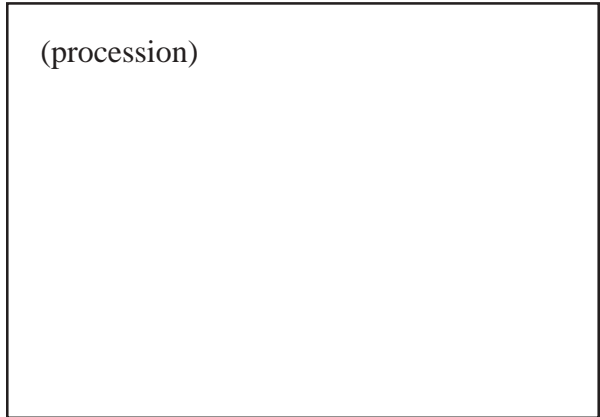
Sister M Lubia presented by Sister M Jessica Swedzinski; *St Paul and Father Kentenich: Called, Sent Forth to Proclaim, Tested, and Proven:* Sister M Victoria Heidersheidt; *Shrine Pilgrimages:* Father Mark Niehaus; and *Go Evangelize so Every Home in USA Hears about MTA:* Father Dieter Haas. Presentations were given by several delegates to update the group on the state of affairs in their areas.

A **trip to the Exile Shrine** was on Saturday’s agenda where ten covenants of love were made and the coronation of our national Auxiliary MTA by Arismendy Taveras, was held. Sister M Carol Winkler, who knew Father Kentenich when he was in exile in Milwaukee, WI, shared and also toured many delegates through the cemetery where Father Kentenich walked. The historic Movement House received many delegates who could sit in the room where Father Kentenich gave the Monday Evening Talks during his exile in the United States.

That evening all were treated to a personal choice of Sister M Monika’s entrées at **the banquet**, capped by a dessert buffet with **Swiss Yodeling** and

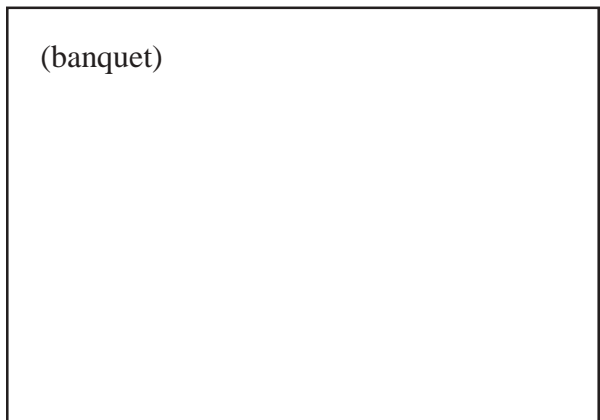
Heritage presented by Toni Seitz and her daughters Miriam and Shanon.

At the Sunday ceremony, **all delegates were “knighted”** with a beautiful sword to go forth and be



(procession)

apostles. *“You are a Knight/Lady of Our Mother Thrice Admirable, Queen, and Victress of Schoenstatt. Forever remain her faithful child, bringing her Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to all you meet. Arise Sir (name), Lady (name), and receive your title with all humility. Like St Paul, be empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit. Amen.”*



(banquet)

All were challenged during this Year of St Paul with our Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign’s high goal: We want to bring our Mother Thrice Admirable and her picture of grace into **one million more American Family Homes!** St. Paul is our inspiration – Remember opportunity knocks but once. Our 2009 national convention for the SRC will be held in **Texas.** Cathy Johnson, Birmingham, AL

5A

5B

5C

5D

5E

5F

5G

JOURNEY '08

5H

5I

5J

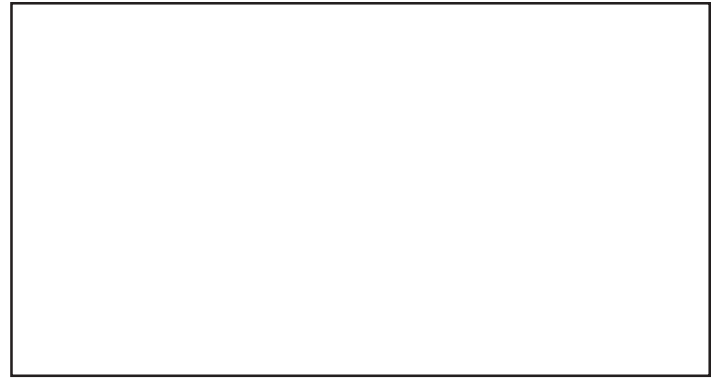
5L

5M

5N

Welcome newly registered SRC Group Coordinators

Norma Mangabat	Haywood	CA
Carmen Ruiz	N Hollywood	CA
Marivel Araujo de Lopez	Doral	FL
Melisa Agnes Brown	Miami	FL
Gloria Lopez	Miami	FL
Elizabeth Rodríguez	Grayson	GA
Antonia Sánchez	Loganville	GA
Maria Cagaoan	Pearl City	HI
Cynthia Avellana	Glen Ellyn	IL
Shirley Sullivan	Lombard	IL
Carol Townsend	Lombard	IL
Margaret Gisburne	Wooddale	IL
Carol DiFabio	Lafayette	IN
Miriam Scheetz	Lucerne	IN
Nancy Johnston	W. Lafayette	IN
Nohemy Chong	Kenner	LA
Elvira Contreras	Kenner	LA
Isolde Fiero	Kenner	LA
Milena Isabá	Kenner	LA
Sonia Villalta	Kenner	LA
Gina Cevallos	Metairie	LA
Maria Dominguez	Metairie	LA
Ann Blanchard	Pierre Part	LA
Millie Blanchard	Pierre Part	LA
Zegory & Lovell McGalliard	Plattenville	LA
Olga Gonzalez	Westfield	MA
Edward Richardson	Gorham	ME
Teresa Anthony	Poplarville	MS
Christopher Laboe	Lincoln	NE
Peter Johnson	Jim Thorpe	PA
Elaine Rainey	Mechanicsburg	PA
Pam & Jim Singleton	McSherrytown	PA
Deacon Lawrence Illy	Virginia Beach	VA
Rosalba LoPresti	Midlothian	VA
Clare DuMontier	Appleton	WI
Pilar Hernandez de Ramirez	Madison	WI



Four Germans write about “The Journey of Love” and Father experiences in Milwaukee...

Last year Sossina Agersa was in Germany and talked about her experiences of the “Journey of Love.” Her words enflamed our hearts at once and so we decided to find out if all was true. So we started our USA trip taking a week to learn something about the United States. After visiting New York, Niagara Falls, Michigan, and Chicago we came finally to Waukesha. Sr. Jessica and Dick Butler gave us a hearty welcome and at once we felt at home. We were very impressed with the opening Mass, the flags, the songs, and of the people coming from all over the USA.

Whenever we talked to somebody we got the feeling we were part of the community for a long time already. Everybody was interested in Germany and we were asked to tell about our country. Of course the Original Shrine was a big theme and we were pleased to let everybody who wanted to know, take part in our experiences. We were also impressed and moved in our hearts when somebody told about his life and gave us the opportunity to take part in it. We could find friends till the Journey of Love was over. Bound in the covenant of love with our Mother, the MTA, we are also bound together.

Fortunately we had the chance to stay a few days longer. In this time Sr. Carol helped us to learn more about Father Kentenich and get closer to him. Under her guidance, we got a deeper understanding of him to be not only a founder but a FATHER. We liked it very much to be in the Father House and we were glad to visit Family Horn. In Madison Dick Butler guided us through the city and the very impressive capitol.

On our departure day we were surprised to find some presents at our breakfast table. Although Sr. Carol had a lot of work, she spent much time with us. With gratitude and joy in our hearts about these days, we said “Good Bye.” In our minds we are sure: We will come back!

Now sitting in front of our Diocesan Shrine, with mosquitoes flying around, we feel almost like being back in Waukesha at the International Shrine of the Father Kingdom. *Annette, Ines, Lena, and Bernd*

From Heaven A Mission Continues...

♦ *Marianne Crawford* from Baton Rouge, LA, was called home this spring. She was commissioned Feb 10, 2007, by Mary Lynn Womack, area coordinator, with a small Pilgrim MTAs for the retirement home where she lived.

♦ *Lois Gerhart* from Wilmington, DE, died on May 8, 2008, after an 18-year struggle with cancer. As she moved here from Argentina, her Mom sent along the Pilgrim MTA which Lois gave to one of the first women she met: Doris Glenn. Doris & Kate Cogan took it upon themselves to get 12 English Pilgrim MTAs, (like the apostles), to spread Schoenstatt in DE. Since 1990 Lois was very apostolic in Naples, FL, in winters; like taking the Pilgrim MTA in her wheel chair with Carmel DeLeon to nursing homes.

♦ *Dolores Stamp* from Bonita Springs, FL, died on July 26, 2008, in a fatal automobile accident. She was a member with Dolores Molter, co-coordinator with Lois Gerhart. 6 Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign *Summer 2008*

For these, we pray ... National SRC Convention 2008

Rosa de Jesus (St. Therese's rose for the child Jesus)

One of the evaluation items for the Journey of Love 2008 has to do with a challenge to the attendees on how to share with others what was discussed and learned from the sessions during the conference. The main ideas I'm sharing with you are highlights of the talks that personally resonated to me. Understandably, other attendees may have been touched in various ways and may have other different points and impression of the presentations. I'm also taking this task of sharing one level higher by re-phrasing, highlighting, and presenting the main ideas of the talks in the form of prayer intentions. Creatively, I'm *suggesting* that, one or two at a time, we include the following with the other intentions we make before each decade when we pray our daily rosary as individuals or with our SRC prayer group:

- ...that we may imitate John Pozzobon's **heroic childlikeness**
- ...that we may **value suffering and the cross** like John Pozzobon
- ...that the strong winds of **suffering and difficulties** may **help us discover the strength that is within us**
- ...that like John Pozzobon, we may **offer our lives for the work and mission of our MTA**
- ...that we may **be like Simon of Cyrene in helping carry each other's burden**
- ...that **the concept of "shrine" may be better understood by U.S. Catholics**
- ...that we may learn to **foster a culture that makes belief in the shrine possible and fruitful**
- ...that **Event Catholicism** as we practice it at Schoenstatt may **enable us to encounter God as we encounter each other**
- ...that as **historical people**, we may **see the hands of God in the events of our lives**
- ...that **for the sake of the Rosary Campaign**, we may strive to **be a hero today**
- ...that we may learn to **appreciate "smallness"** like the great Saul welcomed becoming "little" Paul among the apostles after his conversion
- ...that we all may remember, especially for this election year, to **pray for the particular state** we picked following the spirit of the **"living rosary"**
- ...that as **"St Paul's pride needed to be broken"**, according to our founder in his studies of St. Paul's life, we too, may **ask that our pride may be broken**
- ...that we may experience the blinding light that will allow us to **be led** humbly to where we can see
- ...that as we **focus our attention and devotions this year on the Exile Shrine**, we may receive the grace of **unity for the Schoenstatt family**: One Heart, One Shrine, One Church
- ...that we may, as **Knights and Ladies of our MTA**, be empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit like St Paul, as we **faithfully and humbly bring her Son to all we meet**
- ...that **the love of Christ may impel us** to strive harder and be able to say with St Paul, "I no longer live, but Christ in me ..."
- ...that **the Pilgrim MTA picture of grace may reach one million more American family homes**
- ...that we may respond, as singled out individuals, to the Sunday homily **"I tug you today"** and accept the challenge to live out and share with others what we learned from the conference
- ...that I, filled with joy, together with "ya all" may continue to "Hold the Lady" and "Yodel" our hearts out all the way to next year's Journey of Love in Texas!!!

This year letters were received from over a dozen bishops encouraging their constituents for the Journey Conference. An example from Archbishop Wilton Gregory of Atlanta:

"As you pray and meditate on the stirring words of St Paul, 'The love of Christ impels us,' I am sure that the spirit of our Blessed Mother will be there with you, lending concrete form to your inspirations, and directing you to conceive the most optimistic plans possible about the future—the future of your own work on behalf of Christ and his Church, and the future of your witness ...

Please accept my personal thanks, which I know reflect the sentiments of all the bishops in America, for your work to strengthen our Church, and to turn more and more souls, to a knowledge of the perfect human love that dwells in Mary's own heart—she who will teach us everything we need to know—she who will teach us Jesus Christ!" 6/19/08

Photos Bishops' Letters

Experience

Pope John Paul II established the first World Youth Day in Rome on Palm Sunday 1986, as an annual event to reach out to the youth of the world. He saw it as a way to reach out to the next generation of Catholics, to demonstrate confidence in them, to rejuvenate the Church, and ensure that the core teachings of Christ are transmitted and lived.

Every two to three years, the World Youth Day is taken to an international host city. Hundreds of thousands of young people from 100-200 countries attend Tuesday through Sunday events culminating in a Final Mass celebrated by the Pope on the last, actual World Youth DAY.

Here is a summary of past WYDs:

1987 April 11-12 Buenos Aires, Argentina
900,000 Δ *We ourselves have known and put our faith in God's love towards ourselves (1Jn 4:16)*

1989 Aug 15-20 Santiago de Compostela, Spain
400,000 Δ *I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (Jn 14:6)*

1991 Aug 10-15 Czestochowa, Poland
1.6 million Δ *You have received a spirit of sonship (Rom 8:15)*

1993 Aug 10-15 Denver, Colorado, USA
1/2 million Δ *I came that they might have life, and have it to the full (Jn 10:10)*

1995 Jan 10-15 Manila, Philippines
4 million Δ *As the Father sent me, so am I sending you (Jn 20:21)*

1997 Aug 19-24 Paris, France
1.2 million Δ *Teacher, where are you staying? Come and see (Jn 1:38-39)*

2000 Aug 15-20 Jubilee Year Rome, Italy
2 million Δ *The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn 1:14)*

2002 July 23-28 Toronto, Canada
800,000 Δ *You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world (Mt 5:13,14)*

2005 Aug 16-21 Cologne, Germany
1.2 million Δ *We have come to worship Him (Mt 2:2)*

8 Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign Summer 2008

World Youth Day is now the largest youth event in the world!

Key Aussie Statistics

Up to 225,000 registered pilgrims took part in WYD08 events, including 125,000 international visitors.

100,000 Australian pilgrims attended, including 40,000 from greater Sydney

An estimated 8,000 volunteers

Around 3,000 media covered the event in Sydney

3.5 million meals served to pilgrims

100,000 slept in 400 schools and parishes, including 10,000 in Sydney Olympic Park

Up to 40,000 billeted as part of the Home Stay program

Approximately 20,000 stayed in paid accommodation such as hostels, boarding houses, hotels and backpacker accommodation. The remainder made their own arrangements.

400,000 people attended the Final Mass at Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park

Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park were united in

name as the "Southern Cross Precinct" for the Vigil and Final Mass

4000 toilets for Southern Cross Precinct with running water!

35 large video screens for Southern Cross Precinct

60 lighting towers for Southern Cross Precinct

232,000 candles used at Vigil

The four official WYD08 languages were: English, French, Italian, and Spanish

WYD08 was the most technological event ever, as the Pope sent text messages to all registered pilgrims and digital Prayer Walls were available

100 actors took part in the Stations of the Cross performance

500 chasubles for the Bishops and Cardinals

2000 stoles for the priests

1 million communion hosts

120 bottles of wine consumed at the Opening and Final Masses

WYD-Mulgoa July 12-27 Schoenstatt USA Group #4608

23rd World Youth Day with Pope Benedict XVI at Sydney, Australia, followed by week in Mulgoa at Schoenstatt Shrine of Light for 17 Schoenstatt Pilgrims - what a Schedule of Divine Providence - Mother takes perfect care!

July 12 – Saturday

Beginning our pilgrimage, we depart from Minneapolis, MN, USA, on Northwest #309 7:10 pm. We arrive in Los Angeles at 9 pm and fly Qantas #108 to Sydney starting at 11:30 pm for 14 hours and 35 minutes.



July 13 – Sunday

Crossing the international date line and experiencing No Sunday, July 13th in our lives!

July 14 – Monday

We arrive 7:25 am in Sydney. Local time in Minneapolis is 4:25 pm Sunday. Orientation tour of the city – including Darling Harbor, Bondi Beach, Watson's Bay & Paddington's historical terrace houses.

Our Package A Basic WYD accommodations are at:
Marcellin College Randwick Tel: 61 2 939 86355
195 Alison Rd www.marcellin.nsw.edu.au
Randwick, New South Wales 2031
Accommodation Venue ID: 881
Evening Aussie Barbecue by Sr Marion McClay's brother in Chatswood, North Sydney beyond the Harbour Bridge.

July 15 – Tuesday

Time to acclimate to the new time zone and activities.
3 pm concert until 4:30 pm Opening Mass celebrated by Cardinal George Pell with arrival of WYD Cross & Icon at Barangaroo.

July 16 – Wednesday

Catechesis & Mass 9-12 noon

for next three mornings at 250 locations - we are #1070 at
Parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart
193 Avoca St, Randwick NSW 2031
www.msparishes.org Tel: 02/9399 6775 Mon-Fri 9-5pm
Australia's largest barbecue for 120,000 at noon is prepared at 200 venues by Rotary Club Members
2 - 10 pm Youth Festival Concerts and Presentations at various sites Wednesday through Friday
6:30-7:30 pm Home Shrine Powerpoint at Sch Café
7:30-8:30 pm adoration hour at St Paul, above Sch Café

July 17 – Thursday

2:45 - 5:30 pm Arrival and welcome of the Holy Father at Barangaroo - WE MET THE POPE UP CLOSE!!!

July 18 – Friday

3-6 pm Stations of the Cross at six re-enactment locations

July 19 – Saturday

5:30 am – 5 pm 5 mile Pilgrim Walk across Sydney Harbour Bridge to Southern Cross Precinct for 7 pm Vigil with the Holy Father at Randwick Racecourse and Centennial Park. Sleep out “under the stars” with 10:30 pm int'l rosary; 12-1 plus 2-3 am adoration hours at Schoenstatt Spirituality Tent

July 20 – Sunday WYD Final Mass

8 am Morning Praise, then 10 am Mass and Confirmation with the Holy Father followed by Festival Concert till 5 pm

July 21 Monday

Sydney sightseeing until 5 pm Mass with Bishop Morlino at St Mary Cathedral. Last day of free public WYD transport. Go to Mulgoa: Sister M Elizabeth Foley, 230 Fairlight Road Mulgoa NSW 2745 Tele from USA: -61-2-4773-8338

July 22 – Tuesday

Schoenstatt Youth International Encounter 9 - 10:30 pm
200 delegates on the grounds at Schoenstatt Mulgoa

July 23 – Wednesday

Visit the Blue Mountains via tour bus, Guide Michelle Davis
Shopping at some of the best mountain town spots.

July 24 – Thursday

Recollection Morning. We can prepare Mass songs & readings for the weekly 11 am Mass. Followed by sharing session at lunch of 20-50 people. Lookout over the Penrith River. 5:30-10 pm Visit to Regina & Daniel Rossetto Family Home Shrine just down the lane.

July 25 – Friday

Aboriginal Centre tour & walk followed by shopping excursion via bus

July 26 – Saturday

Holy Mass & Breakfast - 9 am depart via bus for Sydney Kingsford SMIT International Airport. Flight Qantas #11 at 1:20 pm - 13 hrs 30 mins in flight with arrival 9:45 am in LAX. Depart NW #320Q at 2:58 pm with arrival 8:31 pm in Minneapolis, MN. Some delegates stay in Twin Cities.

July 27 – Sunday

Flights to VA & TN as all return home with spiritual growth and precious memories from our WYD 08 Pilgrimage!

Go on line for more photos/texts at www.wyd2008.org

Our Lady of the Southern Cross, Help of Christians & Blessed Mary MacKillop, pray for all at WYD spiritually or physically!

Ever wonder what the expectations of the Pope were— before the largest gathering of humanity on the Australian continent took place to welcome him?

Interview with the Pope on his Alitalia flight to Australia, July 12, 2008:

Lucio Brunelli, Italian Television - RAI, asked the opening question:

Your Holiness, this is your second World Youth Day. The first - let us say - that is entirely your own. What are your feelings as you prepare for it and what is the main message that you want to communicate to the young people? Then, do you think that World Youth Days deeply affect the life of the Church that hosts them? And, lastly, do you think that the formula of these youth meetings on a massive scale is still relevant today?

The Holy Father:

I am going to Australia with feelings of great joy. I have the most beautiful memories of the World Youth Day in Cologne; it was not merely a mass event, it was above all a great celebration of faith, a human encounter in communion with Christ. We saw how faith opens borders, how it truly has an ability to unite the different cultures and that it creates joy. And I hope this will be so now in Australia. Therefore, I am delighted to see many young people and to see them united in the desire for God and in the desire for a truly human world. The essential message is suggested by the words that constitute the slogan of

this World Youth Day; we are speaking of the Holy Spirit who makes us Christ's witnesses. I would thus like to focus my message precisely on this reality of the Holy Spirit who appears in different dimensions: he is the Spirit who was active in the Creation. The dimension of the Creation is very present because he is the Creator Spirit. It seems to me an important subject at the present moment. However, the Spirit is also the inspirer of Scripture: on our journey, in the light of Scripture we can move on together with the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is Christ's Spirit, hence, he guides us in communion with Christ and reveals himself, St Paul says, ultimately in charisms, that is, in a great number of unexpected gifts that change the different epochs and give the Church fresh strength. These dimensions, therefore, invite us to see the traces of the Spirit and to make the Spirit visible to others, too. A World Youth Day is not merely a passing event: it is prepared for in advance by a long journey with the Cross and the Icon of Our Lady, which in turn is not only prepared for from the organizational but also from the spiritual viewpoint. Consequently, these days are the culmination of a long previous process. Everything is the fruit of a journey, of being together on a journey leading to Christ. Moreover, the World Youth Day creates a history, that is,

friendships are formed, new inspirations are born: thus the World Youth Day continues. I think this is very important: not only to see these three or four days, but to see the entire journey that precedes them, as well as the subsequent journey.

In this sense, it seems to me that World Youth Day - at least for us in the near future - is a valid formula which prepares us to understand that in different perspectives and from different parts of the earth we are moving on towards Christ and towards communion. This is how we learn a new way of journeying on together. In this sense, I hope that it will also be a formula for the future.

**WYD MADRID, SPAIN
from Aug 15-21, 2011**

Our Holy Father Speaks to the Youth of all Ages

www.vatican.va

11A

Welcoming Celebration by the Young People: Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI at Barangaroo, Sydney Harbour, Thursday, July 17, 2008:

Dear friends, in your homes, schools and universities, in your places of work and recreation, remember that you are a new creation! As Christians you stand in this world knowing that God has a human face—Jesus Christ—the “way” who satisfies all human yearning, and the “life” to which we are called to bear witness, walking always in his light (*cf. Rite of Baptism, 100*). ...

My dear friends, God’s creation is one and it is good. The concerns for non-violence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity. They cannot, however, be understood apart from a profound reflection upon the innate dignity of every human life from conception to natural death: a dignity conferred by God himself and thus inviolable. Our world has grown weary of greed, exploitation and division, of the tedium of false idols and piecemeal responses, and the pain of false promises. Our hearts and minds are yearning for a vision of life where love endures, where gifts are shared, where unity is built, where freedom finds meaning in truth, and where identity is found in respectful communion. This is the work of the Holy Spirit! This is the hope held out by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is to bear witness to this reality that you were created anew at Baptism and strengthened through the gifts of the Spirit at Confirmation. Let this be the message that you bring from Sydney to the world!

Vigil with the Young People: Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI at Randwick Racecourse, Saturday, July 19, 2008:

*Dear young people, we have seen that it is the Holy Spirit who brings about the wonderful communion of believers in Jesus Christ. True to his nature as giver and gift alike, he is even now working through you. Inspired by the insights of Saint Augustine: let **unifying love** be your measure; **abiding love** your challenge; **self-giving love** your mission!*

11B Shrine

Mulgoa Shrine of Light

11C Cathedral

Final Mass: Sermon of His Holiness Benedict XVI at Randwick Racecourse, Sunday, July 20, 2008:

Yet this power, the grace of the Spirit, is not something we can merit or achieve, but only receive as pure gift. God’s love can only unleash its power when it is allowed to change us from within. We have to let it break through the hard crust of our indifference, our spiritual weariness, our blind conformity to the spirit of this age. Only then can we let it ignite our imagination and shape our deepest desires. That is why prayer is so important: daily prayer, private prayer in the quiet of our hearts and before the Blessed Sacrament, and liturgical prayer in the heart of the Church. Prayer is pure receptivity to God’s grace, love in action, communion with the Spirit who dwells within us, leading us, through Jesus, in the Church, to our heavenly Father. In the power of his Spirit, Jesus is always present in our hearts, quietly waiting for us to be still with him, to hear his voice, to abide in his love, and to receive “power from on high,” enabling us to be salt and light for our world. ...

Through the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, may this Twenty-third World Youth Day be experienced as a new Upper Room, from which all of us, burning with the fire and love of the Holy Spirit, go forth to proclaim the Risen Christ and to draw every heart to him! Amen.

12 A Fathers - JOURNEY SNAPSHOTS

Journey Snapshots

12 B Exile Shrine

12 C Knighting

12 D Claire

12 E Dolores Anders

12 F Martin Sisters

!2 G Swiss Family Musicians

12 H Covenant Children Saturday Exile Shrine

13 A Back Pack & Mementos

WYD'08 Snapshots

13 C two backs of Sch hoodies

13 B Crowd Scene

13 E Pope at Mass

13 F Abrioriginaes

13 D Pope & Koala

13 I Priests

13 H Cathedral

13 G Bridge at Night

13 J Giraffes at Zoo

13 K Group at Bridge

13 L Lady of Southern Cross

13 M Fr Kantenich Statue

WYD experiences from our Schoenstatt delegates

Saturday, July 12, 2008

Adrianna Spear, Waseca, MN

So guess what? We are headed to the great land down under! For all the five girls who have never flown before Congrats! plus a certificate from the pilot.

I can't believe that we all made it through the airport with little to no problems. Our MTA is certainly with us.

I would like to share with everyone a story. I decided to wear my "I am pro-life T-shirt" on the plane because I feel it makes a great statement and I wanted as many people to see it as possible. SO..... as I'm walking on the plane one of the flight attendants was looking and pointing at me. So I smiled, but as I got closer I realized that she was commenting on my shirt and she thanked me for being Pro-life. It was so powerful!! So I thanked her back and moved on to my seat. I was so happy that another person is fighting for the same cause as me!! Because sometimes it feels like you're fighting all by yourself. So with that story I wanted to set the tone for our adventure down under. I hope we can truly show people our Schoenstatt spirit not only by our sweatshirts but by being the beautiful girls we are! So through our upcoming adventures and trials, let us remember that our Mother wants us to bring ourselves to her people so they can better see her!!

Sunday, July 13, 2008

Alicia Stillwell, Kohler, WI

Meditation for in the plane: My mother takes special care of us on our trips. She sees to our personal needs, such as food, water, and clothing. She makes sure we are all accounted for after each stop. She watches over us as we enjoy ourselves. She prays for our safety.

Now we place our trust in our heavenly Mother to watch over us on

this journey to World Youth Day. Just as she watched over her holy Son when they traveled to Egypt, with perfect love and care, she will do the same for us. As she kept Jesus warm in swaddling clothes, she will wrap us in her mantle. She will make sure none of us loses our way. She will watch over us and share in our joys and sufferings. She will pray for us and keep us safe. I trust your might, your kindness, Mother dear!

Sunday was officially not there for us because we crossed over the international date line, but in the Qantas plane we prayed aloud the Liturgical Morning Praise for the 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Monday, July 14, 2008

Claire Wathen, Lincoln, NE

The descent into Sydney, Australia, turned out to be quite dramatic"with much anticipation, excitement, and turbulence. I am surprised the flight seemed so short, but perhaps that was due to the fact I slept through the vast majority of the flight. Cheers filled the cabin and arms flew up as the pilot announced our approaching landing. The looks on the faces of fellow pilgrims was priceless, so eager to experience the coming days in Australia. Even so, it hadn't sunk in that we were actually here in Sydney.

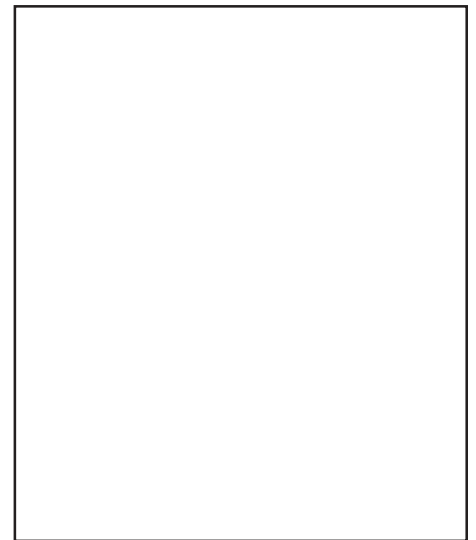
After clearing customs with hundreds of fellow pilgrims, we waited about an hour for a bus. Apparently, there was some miscommunication with our transportation, but as always, Sr. Jessica took care of us and off we went. Just before noon, we were at our destination, Marcellin College. Unfortunately, the school wasn't opened yet. To fill the time, we thought it would be fun to wander through a dead end alley and around the block...so we found the entrance right on time to check in.

Sr. Jessica registered the group, and we were each awarded our very own bright and colorful WYD backpacks.

Complete with a water bottle, thermal blanket, maps, books, and poncho, the packs were a perfect way to express our pilgrim status in Sydney. Bro. Joachim, a volunteer, escorted the group to a carpeted classroom on the second floor where we were to sleep. This is quite fortunate, considering the hundreds downstairs in the gym...

After getting a quick tour of the school, a boys' high school, we got a little more settled in our room. Sr. Jessica suggested at 6:30 we could attend a barbeque for Schoenstatt pilgrims. However, it turned out that the college was hosting their own at 4 pm. Due to overall fatigue the groups decided to stay and just go to that one.

Since it was only 1 pm, we went to Coogie Beach, about 15 minutes from the school. Spotting an adorable café on a street corner, we stopped for lunch. After eating, we caught a bus, and minutes later we were in the vicinity of the beach. We walked down to the beach, encountering a magnificent view and a chilly wind to match. Some girls, being more adventurous, proceeded into the water, others only got their feet wet. It was a lovely way to spend the afternoon and refreshed, we all set back to the college for the barbeque. *(I didn't go to the beach, so Angela filled in details.)*



The evening was quite enjoyable. Everyone was able to shower and eat some Aussie barbecue, which doesn't

add up to Kentucky BBQ, but was delicious none the less! ☺ A band was there and it was nice to meet some of the people who were staying with us at the school: fellow Americans, Canadians, and even native Australians, among others.

At around 6 pm, Holy Mass was held in the gym. I, unfortunately, was already sound asleep. I guess the jet lag process had officially begun. It felt like midnight at only 5 pm! ☺ Good Night!

Reflecting back on that day, I just remember the building excitement. All our hard work had paid off and we were finally at World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia! We pray for an openness of heart to listen to the inspiration and guidance of Our Lord in these days of grace.

Tuesday, July 15, 2008

Rebekah Kisrow, Coon Rapids, MN

I woke up at 6:45am and went up to the playground, but I had just missed seeing the sunrise. Breakfast consisted of vanilla almond flavored granola cereal, pears, cinnamon raisin rolls, and a nut bar. The milk was cool from being outside, but not cold. They also offered coffee and tea, but I just drank some warm water to warm up because I do not like coffee or tea. The weather was nice all day, about 65 degrees Fahrenheit, but it is very cold in the morning and evening when the sun is not out.

We got on a bus around 9 am to go to see the Sydney Opera House. There were tons of people from all different countries by the harbor cheering and waving flags as they walked. Everyone took pictures of the harbor bridge and the view of the city. When we got to the Opera House, Alyssa and I tried to call home, but we could not figure out which numbers to dial. During our tour of the Opera House we saw one of the three small theaters and the largest theater.



The organ in the largest theater took 10 years to build and 2 years to tune!

After the tour we took a ferry (which gave us excellent views of the Opera House and Harbor Bridge) to Barangaroo to eat lunch. We had to give six meal tickets to one person and send them to get a bag of food. Lunch was a Big Aussie Beef Pie, a Clementine, a can of orange flavored mineral water, and Lamingtons (a cream filled cake with chocolate and coconut coating). This was my favorite meal of the entire week.

The opening Mass said by Cardinal Pell started around 4:15 pm with an aboriginal welcome song and dance. The readings were read in different languages and the homily was in English. When it came time for Holy Communion, the priests stood around the outside of each section under umbrellas and everyone walked to the nearest one. There were no organized lines, people just formed somewhat of a line as they got closer. We sang the international version of the theme song for the closing song. All in all, the Mass lasted about three hours.

After Mass we sent three people with our meal tickets to go get our supper. It was soup, rolls, water bottles, and a caramel bar. We stayed about half an hour longer to listen to the Australian Girls Choir, Tempest, and Damian Lee perform.

We walked for about an hour to get to the bus stop where we waited another

half hour for our bus to come. While we were waiting, Alyssa and I called home, and it worked this time. We arrived at the college around 11 pm and went gratefully to bed.

Wednesday, July 16, 2008

Maria Swedzinski, Milroy, MN

Today we were all up by 8 am and enjoyed a delicious breakfast of a bun with raspberry jam, a nut bar, apple juice, a choice of granola or crunch cereal, and tea or coffee. After breakfast, we went to catechesis at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Randwick. The main theme of our session was on the power of the Holy Spirit. We learned from Bishop Zurek of Amarillo, TX, that the Spirit is a dynamic force that accomplishes God's will and comes to people of faith. Then, after we had Mass, we had a BBQ at the church.

Most of the day was sunny and was quite warm when the sun was shining, but rather cool when clouds came up. In the afternoon, we had some time to do some shopping at the WYD merchandise tent at the cathedral. Unfortunately, we were unable to go inside the cathedral at this time due to the very long waiting line. Next, we paid a short visit to the Schoenstatt Café before seeking out an internet café for a chance to send some emails to family

We thank for all your prayers and support for us!

and friends. We went back to the Schoenstatt Café, (where we ate our soup supper), to give the home shrine presentation and lead an hour of Eucharistic adoration, thus ending our day.

Thursday, July 17, 2008

Monica Cecil, Virginia Beach, VA

Before I dive into my day, let me preface this by sharing that for the last three days I had been trekking through Sydney, in the dead of winter and with 40 degree mornings and even colder nights, in nothing but flip flops, and spent the last two nights sleeping on the floor with only an airline throw and a thermal blanket that more resembles a giant piece of tin foil. Thursday was looking amazing after all that, being that I slept in masterfully designed winter sleeping bag that only an expert mountain climber can appreciate and had shoes and SOCKS! Pilgrim life was finally looking up, despite the fact I hadn't washed my hair in – oh – two days. What are hats for, right?

This catechesis at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart was probably the best day of all three catechetical days of the trip. Bishop Prowse of Melbourne was dynamic and funny but challenged us in our faith. Highlights of his talk were to put Jesus in the kitchen and not the sterile and dusty front room. He likes the kitchen where you entertain family; it's messy and chaotic. Bishop references Genesis, how over the chaos, the breath of God - *Rua* - came and from it came order. We need Jesus in the chaos. He makes order and is "particularly inclined to the big bits" of our lives.

Bishop's key send-off was the most remembered during our trip: "Mary. Rabboni! GO!" Christ recognizes us by name. We acknowledge him as Lord and Teacher. We are called to GO! and tell others that he is risen and tell the Good News. That captures the whole World Youth Day adventure; with our presence alone we are a witness of our joy in our God and our Faith.

Girls walking

Later, we are off to see the Pope – the crème de la crème, the whole reason I'm here. We have a long walk ahead of us but I'm feeling giddy with the Reeboks. A few bus rides in, we are in the center of the Central Business District. Amazing! What's even more amazing is I have time to grab McDonalds, which if in America would be my last choice but on pilgrimage, the Happy Meal is sounding like a filet mignon. Down I go into the belly of the CBD and aaaaahhh the Golden Arches of "Maccas." What's this? \$7 for a burger? What happened to my Dollar Value Menu?! Appalled, I settle on the McChicken, just under \$6. Let me just say Australian currency is "redonkulous!" The \$2 coin is as big as our penny and the 50 Cent coin is more ridiculous than a tridecagon. Desperate, I dump the ridiculousness on the counter and get my food.

We take a ferry to Barangaroo, final destination of this momentous event. Once on the other side of the harbor there are packs and packs of pilgrims from every nation. A sea of yellow and red backpacks, singing and cheering, a parade of nations... We finally join in just following the crowds. We pass the bars and go through streets, people as far as the eye can see. It's like walking towards the gates of heaven: thousands of souls, seeking after one place, to know God's message. We are happy! Where we come from and what we speak doesn't matter! It's beautiful.

Come to find out once we are there, we are going to be so close to His Holiness, we have to go through security, scanning and all! Can this be? It hasn't

sunk in yet but clearly we are stoked. All my pilgrim wishes are coming true! We cleared to go in and quickly stake claim on a spot right on the barricade along side Benedict's exit path. Sporadic weeping ensues.

I whip out my binoculars as soon as Benedict hits the stage. He's still so very small even with the ocular help. Doesn't matter, a promise for a close encounter is coming. This address is the most memorable for me and ranks high with his address to the youth in Yonkers, NY, earlier this summer. His one message I remember distinctly, German accent and all, "Life is not governed by chance, it is not random. ... It is a search for the true, the good and the beautiful." A strong message all young people must hear. We have a purpose that God wills for us while we are "but travelers here," as Mary McKillop once said.

Excitement is building as the ceremony comes to a close. Anticipation grows. The Pope shuffles quickly, in his red shoes, off the stage, wiggling his fingers 'hello' to the throngs of people into his popemobile. The spotlight is on the iconic vehicle and his exit music is cued to play. Am I here to see a dignitary or a rock star? Strangely, there is hardly any difference. With a video camera in the left hand and a digital in the right, hyperventilating and sobbing, his entourage drives forth and the big push forward begins. He is merely a couple yards in front of me for a fleeting moment. Surreal. He saw me for a second, first behind the metal barrier. I am blessed.

Pope in Car

On a high, we are off for what we think is a Franciscan rapper, surely an awesome capstone of this unbelievable day. Right on the harbor, we have a long way to go to Paddington in the Eastern Suburbs. As the fearless adult leader, I lead my host of eight on what would become an hour and a half expedition. The most beautiful scenic walk of the trip as well. We again follow the crowds, walking through the Rocks, along the Harbor, the Bridge and the Opera House lit up, towards Circular Quay. The harbor is massive; we pass under the bridge. It's picturesque. Surreal.

We rode the train for the first time, proving to be quite the feat with a wheelchair in tow. We asked tons of questions and took a few buses. "Don't you trust me? I'm Australian." Those Aussies are something, but are very helpful. We finally make it after a couple bumps in the road and dodging a homeless man to only be terribly disappointed that he wasn't in fact a rapping priest! Why I even began to believe that he would be debuting in the Land Far, Far Away, only God knows! Dejected and hungry, after circling the same intersection of Sydney highway four times and nearly dumping Claire from her wheelchair for the umpteenth time – we finally get back to Marcellin another hour later. Can I get a womp-womp? I can't apologize enough for that anti-climatic evening. We did beat the rest of the group back however to salvage our dignity – if that can possibly be a final consolation for our day. (They had spent an hour in the huge vocation expo in the first hall of the Sydney Convention Center on Darling Harbour, plus quite some bit of shopping near the Central Station before taking the bus home toward Randwick.)

Friday, July 18, 2008 Covenant Day
Leesha Plante, Coon Rapids, MN

It's so neat—each day has given me a different blessing, a new experience. Today was full of mixed emotions. In the morning, Sarah, Rebekah, Lyssa,

17A Korean Group

17B Jesus on Stations

and I saw the sunrise again. How different it was from yesterday! We caught a bus back to the college, and found ourselves duly sick of the same breakfast. :D Believe it or not, we're actually missing fruits and vegetables! We get plenty of breads, canned foods, portable stuff. But we've only seen oranges/clementines and apples (well, and funsize containers of peaches and pears at breakfast). Nevertheless, not nearly enough veggies, except those in our café-bought sandwiches. So, we were soon off to catechesis, (this time Bishop Harris of New Brunswick, Canada, spoke on: Go Into The World), but I came late with Claire, Angela, and Rose. We were pretty hysterical, I mean, fits of laughter! It was SO FUNNY! This whole morning was like that. Even the bus rides into Sydney (Barangaroo) for the Stations of the Cross, were laughter-filled. Oh, the stations were very good. They had a sort of reenactment of special WYD stations with actors. The one playing Jesus did a pretty good job. However, I think I would have liked the traditional stations reenacted better. That was the sad part of the day, for I cried at and after Jesus' death. Then I was pretty quiet and somber for a while. We got sandwiches for dinner on the way to Christopher West's talk. (Half of our group stayed at Barangaroo for the Matt Maher concert.) Oh, I do believe West's talk was the highlight of today. Way better than the catecheses, which were all very good—but this was so engaging

and encouraging! His topic, Sexual Redemption in a Pornographic World, was pretty well covered. But we liked him so much; I'd love more details on the topics he swung through quickly. After the inspiring talk, we waited to get his autograph and picture. The only other sad thing is that Claire got something stuck in her eye, so she is currently at the hospital. We pray that she'll be fine, because I think it really hurt. She has probably sacrificed the most in being a pilgrim with us here, so perhaps we can attribute some of our many blessings to her prayers! :D

{Claire waited 1- 4:00 am with her sister, Angela, and Sr. Jessica who reportedly can fall asleep mid-sentence on such a night. The doctor said the eye would heal quickly and Mr. Forrester drove them home for a few hours before the Final Mass Day.}

17C C West

The worthwhile wait for Christopher West brought personal encouragement!

18A Pope at Stage

Saturday, July 19, 2008

Katie Larson, Andover, MN

Sleeping Under the Stars...My Day and Evening at Randwick Racecourse. Upon arrival at the giant race track—it finally hit me—the magnitude of this World Youth Day 2008. All the people spread all around. All here with the same intention of coming closer to our Lord and Savior through the power of the Holy Spirit. As I went through the afternoon exploring and meeting new faces, I kept feeling the power of Christ in each person—in every “Free Hug” sign and in every cheer. It was truly amazing! That evening Holy Father Benedict XVI came to the two hour candle light vigil at the Racecourse. For two hours, the youth of the world explored the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit through music, readings, and careful reflection. It was incredible. As I stood there, I saw thousands and thousands of candles flickering. I saw the Holy Spirit represented in every light. In those moments, I felt this *awesome* presence. Just reminiscing about it makes me want to go back, but in the same way makes me so excited to move forward and share everything I learned with anyone and everyone who will listen. After that vigil our Schoenstatt group went to an international rosary in the Schoenstatt tent, and I continued to feel the presence of the Holy Spirit there. The rosary was led by five people in their native

languages, and even though the words sounded different to my ears, I could hear and understand every word in my heart, and I couldn’t help but say *wow*. I will cherish that experience of sleeping out under the stars and the candle vigil forever.

Sunday, July 20, 2008

Angela Wathen, Lincoln, NE

Sunday, July 20 was sadly the conclusion of World Youth Day. After sleeping outside at Randwick Racecourse, we all awoke in our sleeping bags to music and morning prayers. Some of us slept more than others, with Eucharistic Adoration, confessions, and music throughout the night, but everyone woke up and got ready for the closing Mass with the Holy Father. At 9 am Pope Benedict XVI flew

over the area in a helicopter and then drove throughout the racecourse in the popemobile. We saw him fairly close up, but our view at his arrival spoiled all others.

Following the procession was the celebration of Holy Mass. It was the largest gathering of people in the history of Australia. There was an amazing and inspiring atmosphere at the Mass with over 250,000 youth present.

Following the Mass and conclusion of WYD, everyone began to leave. Our group stayed for a few hours in an attempt to wait for a smaller crowd. Although we were almost the last to leave in our section, we were not lonely, for there was quite an abounding mass of trash left by others.

The next challenge was to get back to Marcellin College, only a mile or two away. This turned out to be more of a challenge than you might think. Every volunteer or policeman we asked had a different solution (a common occurrence throughout the trip ☺) and once we arrived at a bus stop, the bus we needed seemed to be unavailable.

After deliberation among the group, we decided to walk the hour or more walk—that is, before we noticed the wheelchair tire had popped! Since we couldn’t have Claire walk all the way back, half of our group opted to wait and try to catch the bus.

Fortunately, within ten minutes, we were on a bus—talk about Divine Providence! On the way, we were able to pick up the rest of our group as well,

18 B Pope at Stadium

18 C Aerial

who were ecstatic to see us. They were getting directions from a policeman. He informed them of the estimated hour and a half walk back to the college. Seeing the look of utter dismay on their faces he added, as a true Aussie would, "Pipe up girls, you're young! You'll make it!"

About an hour later, we all arrived relieved yet exhausted at the school. The wheelchair was fixed by one of the staff

19 A Mr Ferguson

members, our beloved Mr. Ferguson, who once again came to our rescue! The remainder of the evening was filled with another barbecue hosted by the school and wonderful hot showers.

Monday, July 21, 2008

Melissa Helt, Waunakee, WI

Today is the day we have to leave Marcellin College. We all have to be packed up and out by 8 am. All of us got up early to finish packing. Slowly we all brought our luggage downstairs, where Mr. Ferguson and the other volunteer would make sure our luggage would make it safely to Schoenstatt Center in Mulgoa. Knowing that our luggage was getting safely to Mulgoa without us having to deal with it on the train was a very good feeling, thanks to the great Paul Webb Family from Queensland and their family van!

When getting ready to leave Marcellin College and Sydney there was a lot of mixed feelings. We were sad to leave and also happy to start a new

adventure in Mulgoa. On our way to the bus stop for the last time, some of us were starting to remember the memories we created and all the great people that helped make world youth day great and inspirational.

We made our way to downtown Sydney on the bus. I think as a group we all were starting to know and felt confident traveling around Sydney. We took the ferry over to the Taronga Zoo. We then explored the zoo for a few hours. We saw a lot of different animals from many different parts of the world. One part of the zoo was just exhibits of Australian animals. There was also an opportunity to get up close and personal with a koala! Four of us were fortunate enough to get very close to two friendly koalas. Koalas sleep most of the time and only wake up a few hours in the day to eat, so I didn't think that one would wake up for us to see its face. Then God gave us a little treat when we were in the Koala's enclosure! One of the Koalas woke up so that we could see her face and take really cute pictures. It was very cool to be so close to such a unique animal. The encounter will live in my memories and heart forever, as well as World Youth Day 2008.

19 B Koala

After the zoo we all took the ferry back and then ran into a priest from Madison (where we took some more photos of reading the local Catholic Herald) and took a train to the Cathedral. We had been invited with the Diocese of Madison group to have holy Mass in St.

Mary's Cathedral at 5 pm. However, they changed the Mass time to earlier than they had said, so our group was not able to receive communion. We were a little disappointed, and tired, and some of us needed to use the restroom (or the toilet as the Aussies would say). The few girls that went to the toilet had a very interesting experience with a public toilet that cost 50 cents and was self-cleaning! Katie was the lucky one to use the toilet first. The experience kept us laughing all night. But we have to say we had flush toilets with running water at every main location!!!

Finally we were a group again and we all headed for the train station because we needed to get to Mulgoa and there was still free transportation for all world youth day pilgrims. We all had to help find what train took us near Mulgoa. We ran into many helpful people willing to help us and we even found a man that was willing to call to the sisters in Mulgoa to tell them the time our train would come in so they could come and pick us up. We had noticed that the trains were very full so we split our group into three groups of five so we could make sure to all get onto the express train. Once on the train we had to stand for a few stops till we all got a seat. The train was warm and very crowded with people going home. Then our stop came and our whole group got off. Mr. Webb and his son Liam came to pick us up in a big van.

19 C Webb Family

20 A Welcome 3	20 B Shrine w/ Kanga
----------------	----------------------

After some shopping and talks, we had lunch and got to know other Schoenstatt youth from Germany, Chile, and Australia. Lunch was followed by youth testimonies, some free time and then Mass. I was asked to read the responsorial psalm and some of our group helped with music. Next we heard the Aussie Youth explain what the covenant means to them in giving our eyes, ears, mouth, and heart to our MTA. Then all renewed the covenant of love in front of the shrine as the sun set. I ran after one of the two Bishops (who was heading to his car) so that he would bless my new rosary for me. (It was either Bishop Manning from Parramatta or Bishop Koenig from Paderborn, Germany, who knew one of the sisters.) How could I pass up the opportunity ☺?

We were now on the last span of our travels to Schoenstatt in Australia. We all said a rosary on the way there and we all tried to get used to driving on the wrong side of the road. At last we neared Schoenstatt and then drove by the shrine for the first time! We heard that the Germans and another group had already arrived and that our dinner was waiting. Along with our own beds and showers! The whole group was happy to be somewhere warm and inviting. We were welcomed by Sr Mary Louise and helped to our rooms. Then we had a good dinner. We also had an opportunity to go to holy Mass, which was said in German. Some of the girls went and others showered and went to bed after a long night of traveling.

welcomed us into her shrine, but through the hospitality of the Schoenstatt Sisters, we were once again warm, clean, and well fed. Despite being half way across the world, I felt at home in my surroundings.

After breakfast we all went out to register for the International Schoenstatt Youth Festival. After an introduction to the day, we were sent off to our different activity sessions. I had chosen the bush walk and proceeded down the hill, down where the wild kangaroos graze, to go on a mission of sorts. Our groups had to collect different clues/puzzle pieces from characters that were scattered around the bush (woods). We would bring gifts and they would tell us a little about Schoenstatt, give us our clue, and send us on our way. It was a fun activity and gave us a look around. Some of the other activities included discussion and crafts and a variety pack.

That night we had our 4th, but not final, Australian barbecue. It's a popular thing over there! My favorite part of the day came next – sharing cultural songs, dancing, and fun. The German's circular group dance got 1st place in my book. Wrapping up the celebration, we made Father Andrew sing us a tune and the festival ended on a happy note. Some of us then went to a vocation's talk, which I thought was excellent, despite my half asleep state. I then had the pleasure of "hanging out" with the Australian Schoenstatt youth, who would leave the next morning for Perth.

It didn't matter that I was sharing a single bed—it was a bed, and I was so happy to roll into it!

Tuesday, July 22, 2008
Schoenstatt International
Youth Festival, Mount Schoenstatt
Sarah Lippert, Easton, MN

This was our first morning in Mulgoa! I started my day off with laughing – Claire took a royal tumble out of bed and it was really quite funny. Perhaps in all the excitement...she had forgotten we were sleeping in beds again??? Some of us were rested enough to attend morning prayers in the shrine, and the rest of the group met up at breakfast. I truly felt the grace of finding a home that morning – the Blessed Mother not only greeted us and

20 C 4561 Kids at stage	20 D shrine & cov with two bishops
----------------------------	---------------------------------------

Wednesday, July 23, 2008

Alyssa Loomis, Andover, MN

Today we went to the Blue Mountains. Our guide told us many interesting facts about the mountains and Australia in general. Facts such as Mulgoa means “black swan” from the aboriginal people. We saw numerous, beautiful, and breathtaking sights in the mountains, and we stood on the very edge of the mountains and looked down into the valleys. As we were going from sight to sight on the mountains we stopped at some of the little towns on the way. The shop I enjoyed the most was the antique shop. It had all sorts of stuff from books, to clothing, to journals, to brushes. I love looking at stuff like that, so I thoroughly enjoyed my hour in there.

The last stop of the day was to see the three sisters. They are three rocks that jut out from the valley and which have legends concerning how the rocks came to be there. Another story we heard was about Govette’s leap (a story about a horse and a man jumping over the side of the cliff). I loved looking down the sides of the cliffs we visited. Standing up there and looking down reminded me of how small we are and how great and mighty is our God. He made these mountains, and us for that matter. We are just visitors in his beautiful world, our temporary home. And even though it is only temporary, it is a magnificent journey. God bless.

Thursday, July 24, 2008

Theresa Swedzinski, Milroy, MN

Today was a beautiful day. We all got to sleep in, and after waking refreshed and rejuvenated, we enjoyed breakfast courtesy of the Sisters and said our morning prayer. Following prayer we all spent a few hours of quiet prayer, meditation, and reflection. At 11:00, we attended Holy Mass, the music and reading of which was provided by some of the girls in our group. After Mass we had a chance to visit with the “Thursday

3 srs mountain

Club” and then had a delicious pasta lunch.

Thereafter, some of the girls enjoyed dancing with the other Schoenstatt delegates, including groups from Germany and Canada, while the rest of the girls went on a bush walk. I chose

Penrith

the latter, and it was very beautiful; we went to a lookout with an amazing view. The other girls and I had a really great time. It was a bit rainy, but it was still a lot of fun.

Later in the evening, we went to Daniel and Regina Rossetto’s house for a barbecue with their entire family, and several of their friends. They served steak, sausage, fried rice, cucumber and tomato salad, and scalloped potatoes. For dessert we had an absolutely delicious meringue with fruit, (created by an Aussie who called it *Pavlova* after the Russian ballet dancer). It was a perfect way to end our day.

Friday, July 25, 2008

Theresa Villasis, Chesapeake, VA

Friday’s shopping trip to the local mall with the girls was a fun and relaxing day for me, and a nice way to wind down from our Australian adventure. While waiting in the morning for the bus stop that would take us into town, it was amusing for me to see kangaroo crossing signs in the street, whereas in the U.S., deer crossing signs are much more familiar. I knew that cultural difference would be one thing I’d miss about Australia. Similarly, once we had reached the mall, I took notice of the grocery store they had inside, which most shopping malls in America don’t usually have.

Shopping for me that day was very exciting, since I knew there were many souvenirs and gifts I had yet to pick out for my family and friends back home. Shopping for myself was very tempting as well, since it seemed the mall had so many great bargains! Along the way, Monica and I were in a store where one of the girls working there stopped us and said “Wow, I love your accents! Are you guys from America?” We found it surprising she had noticed our accents, when usually it was the other way around; we thought Australian accents were the cool ones. Monica and I ended up chatting with the girl for about half an hour exchanging things that were different from our countries and our lifestyles.

Riding bus on LEFT side

22 A Bus

kangaroos, but it was also nice to know that we were headed home and that for at least some of us, we were traveling from shrine to shrine. After getting to the airport, checking in and boarding, we had a lovely flight! Almost everyone slept, and those who didn't read, watched movies, tried to sleep, or had

airplane, and once seated, many of us again went to sleep. We arrived in Minneapolis at around 9:00 pm, all still on July 26, and down in the baggage claim, many of the girls were joyfully greeted by parents and siblings. After we claimed our luggage, we sadly said goodbye to each other, and soon all of the girls were on their way home in one way or another.

For lunch, the rest of the girls and I were able to sit down and eat together at an Italian restaurant nearby. A few of us wanted the opportunity to try a glass of Australian wine. We enjoyed pizza, pasta and talked about how our trip went overall.

conversations with others on the plane. Our flight was long, and when we finally arrived at LAX, our internal time clocks were slightly thrown off by the fact that we arrived at the same time on the same day as when we had left Mulgoa.

Monica Cecil, Theresa Villasis, and Sarah Lippert stayed at Monica's Uncle's house, in order to catch flights the next morning, while Claire and Angela Wathen went home with the Swedzinskis. Sister Jessica, Melissa Helt, and myself were graciously taken by Rebekah Kisrow's parents and Alyssa Loomis' Mom, to the Larson's home, where we stayed the night. Katie Larson's family was wonderful as hosts,

Later that night, it was time to pack our things for the next day's departure back to the states. It was a little sad putting all of our things back into our luggage because that meant our trip was just about over, but what a rewarding one it was! However, it was time to go back home and share with all our family and friends our Australian experience.

At LAX, after sadly saying goodbye to one member of our group, Mara Gawarecki, who was staying in California for two weeks, two wonderfully generous Schoenstatt members, Brigitte Allen and Joe Rizzi, met us at the airport with some apples and water and an offer to take a quick

22 B Larsons

Saturday and Sunday, July 26 - 27

Rose Luminiello, Tower Lakes, IL sharing Saturday for Mara Gawarecki, Minnetonka, MN

tour around the city beaches. Only three girls and Sister Jessica were brave enough to take the tour, as most of us were exhausted. The rest of us continued onwards to our gate, and after some of us ate, we promptly fell asleep on the floor. We woke up in time to board the

welcoming us with unending food and great accommodations. After eating our fill, the four of us, slept the night and most of the morning through.

Well, at 9:45 this morning we left the shrine in Mulgoa. It was sad leaving the shrine, the Sisters, and of course, the

On Sunday morning, Sister Jessica, Melissa Helt and I went to Mass with the Larsons before which we again had wonderful food to eat. Sister Jessica and I were even treated to a boat ride around the beautiful lake that the Larsons live on. After Mass, Mrs. Larson prepared a delicious grilled meal for us before Sister Miriam came to pick us up for our drive back to Madison and Waukesha, Wisconsin. We left the Larsons, who live near Minneapolis, around 2:15 pm, and we arrived at Schoenstatt Heights in Madison before 7:00 pm. For Sister Jessica and Melissa, the journey ended here. Melissa's

22 C Meal

**Note
Mountain
Devil
Flower**

parents picked her up at the Heights, and Sister was glad to be back home.

As for me and Sister Miriam, the journey continued! After eating supper with Sister Jessica in Madison, and stopping briefly in the Founder Shrine, Sister Miriam and I continued on to the International Shrine of the Father Kingdom in Waukesha, Wisconsin. To put that hour trip simply, I think I ruined Sister's hearing.

When we arrived in Waukesha, we were immediately greeted by the Sisters, and after having deposited me and my belongings at the Retreat Center, Sister Miriam headed to the Province House and was not seen until the next morning at Mass. After I settled into the Center, and had a few minutes speaking with a few of the Sisters, I walked up to the shrine and then to the Father House to greet my fellow Girls Youth Leaders, who were on the last days of their annual convention and who had just chosen our new motto for the year: "In Father's footsteps, we light the way to holiness." They were having a period for silent reflection, so I was slightly unwilling to visit them at the Father House, but I knew they would be disappointed if I didn't stop in.

Needless to say, the moment I walked in the door, the peaceful silence was broken. After sharing some stories with them, we all had a quick snack and went to the shrine for night prayer. Marie, our diocesan leader, asked me to lead night prayer, after which we headed down to the Center to catch some sleep. Although I was tired, at about midnight, I have to confess, I was pretty hungry, so one of the other leaders and I went down to the kitchen for a snack and chatted for awhile. After all of this, I finally went to sleep, and was picked up the next day by my mother, and I was on the final leg of my journey home.

Everyone you meet today is on Heaven's Most Wanted List!

Mary Murphy, 7/8/08 email

Text Messages from Pope Benedict XVI to WYD '08 Pilgrims

WYD Sydney 2008 was the first World Youth Day to take full advantage of telecommunications, as each pilgrim who registered had the option of providing a mobile phone number to which the Pontiff's text message would be sent. Actually the pope didn't thumb the texts into his cell phone. Rather Australia's Telstra cellular phone network and WYD organizers worked with Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, papal spokesman, to formulate the messages and make them available at noon each day during WYD. The first five are: "Young friend, God & his people expect much from u, because u have within u the Father's supreme gift: the Spirit of Jesus—BXVI." (July 15); "The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles & gives u the power boldly 2 proclaim that Christ is risen!—BXVI." (July 16); "The Holy Spirit is the principal agent of salvation history; let him write your life history2!—BXVI." (July 17); "The Spirit impels us 4ward 2wards others: the fire of his love makes us missionaries of God's charity: See you tomorrow nite—BXVI." (July 18); and "Dear friend, u must be holy & u must be missionary: never separate holiness from mission—BXVI." (July 19).

WYD 2008, Wikipedia Website

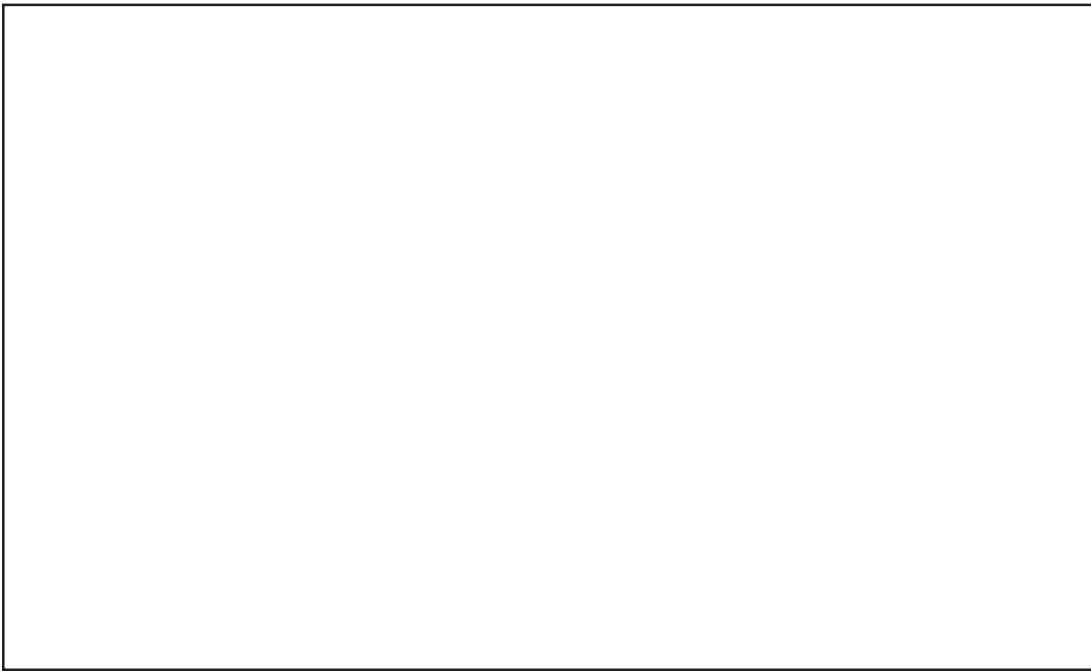
Pope's Farewell at Sydney Airport, July 21, 2008

...The principal actors on the stage over these last few days, of course, have been the young people themselves. World Youth Day is their day. It is they who have made this a global ecclesial event, a great celebration of youth and a great celebration of what it is to be the Church, the people of God throughout the world, united in faith and love and empowered by the Spirit to bear witness to the risen Christ to the ends of the earth. I thank them for coming, I thank them for their participation, and I pray that they will have a safe journey home. I know that the young people, their families and their sponsors have in many cases made great sacrifices to enable them to travel to Australia. For this the entire Church is grateful. ©2008 Libreria Editrice Vaticana

As I was on my way home from three Schoenstatt meetings in Necedah, WI, I was driving with my cruise on. I was slowly approaching a semi truck, so I signaled to move into the fast lane to pass it up. Then I discovered another car was already there, next to the semi, and was driving slower than my cruise. I tapped the brake and prepared to follow patiently. As I was following this little car, I suddenly noticed the license plate was different. It was only two letters. I drove a little closer to see it clearly and I could hardly believe my eyes: JK. JK! In secular terms these two little letters often stand for "Just Kidding." But in our Schoenstatt world, they are the signature of our father and founder: Joseph Kentenich. I don't know what the intention of the owner of this car was when he got this special license plate, but for me, it was a tangible reminder that our founder is watching over us. Eventually the car passed the semi and I resumed my cruise, in a more prayerful state than when I had turned it off.

Sister M Catherine Ditto, Youth Sister, Madison, WI

One mission is better than a 1,000 options! *Cardinal Pell, at Final Mass, July 20, 2008*



As Catholics, we have such an amazing opportunity to be the mouth, hands, and feet of Christ. This privilege is also a responsibility. Our torch has been vigorously reignited here in Sydney and in the days to come. Now, and in particular when we return home - we must not let the torch die, but rather carry the light of Christ out to our friends, family, and world. Let us make a conscious decision to return changed persons, a better version of ourselves, united with the Will of Our Father and our beloved Mother Thrice Admirable.

*Claire Wathen's Meditation
July 17, 2008*

Dear Young People, let me now ask you a question ...
How are you using the gifts you have been given, the "power" which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you? What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?

Pope Benedict XVI, Opening Address to WYD on "Super Thursday" at Barangaroo, July 17, 2008

**Don't forget to visit our SRC WEBSITE at
www.schoenstattrosarycampaign.org OR www.schoenstattrosarycampaign.com**



Schoenstatt Sisters of Mary
Schoenstatt Rosary Campaign
5825 Cottage Grove Road
Madison, WI 53718-1325
rosary@schsrsm.org

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Madison WI
Permit #1027

Another WYD First:

Pope Benedict announced that pilgrims and all "who prayed for the spiritual goals of this meeting and for its happy outcome" would be able to receive indulgences July 15-20, 2008.

Don't miss indulgences connected to St Paul Year Events and Pilgrimage Places of the Apostle to the Gentiles until June 29, 2009.