WORLD YOUTH DAY REACHES OUT TO YOUTH ONLINE – JOIN XT3 NOW!

In a first for any World Youth Day, an online social networking site – www.Xt3.com has been launched by His Eminence Cardinal George Pell, Archbishop of Sydney and Bishop Anthony Fisher, Coordinator of WYD08.

Hosted by Telstra, Xt3.com is the exclusive online social network for World Youth Day Sydney 2008 (WYD08) and will connect pilgrims with the Catholic Church and "virtual pilgrims" around the globe.

The name 'Xt3' was inspired by Pope John Paul II and stands for Christ in the Third Millenium. Pope John Paul II spoke of young people's special task to bring the Gospel of Christ into the third Christian Millennium and to build a better world.

Xt3 is an online platform to enable pilgrims worldwide to connect with one another and share in their experiences and it's users will continue to connect after World Youth Day in July with Xt3 to remain as a legacy piece for the Catholic Church in Australia and the world.

Unique to the Xt3 social networking site will be faith connection features such as 'Ask a Priest' and 'Prayer Intentions' as well as the ability to create discussion groups and debates on contemporary issues.

Xt3 will also provide pilgrims with the ability to join official WYD08 groups, charity action groups and create their own interactive profiles.

Further features include private messaging; event calendars; the ability to embed other websites such as parish websites onto Xt3; and a video and multiple photo uploading facility.

Another important dimension to Xt3 is its capacity to coordinate and organise young people to do something to build a better world.

The site will prove invaluable for sharing information – whether it be pilgrims planning their trip to WYD08, or administrators of religious educations programs hoping to create interactive forums for students and young adults.

WYD08 now invites everyone - including all WYD08 registered pilgrims – to join Xt3 at www.Xt3.com.

A group of trained moderators will oversee Xt3 on a 24-hour basis to ensure that images, videos, comments and discussions are appropriate.

CHECK OUT THE GREAT RANGE OF WYD08 PILGRIM OFFERS

To welcome domestic and international pilgrims and celebrate Australia's largest ever event, WYD08 is delighted to provide a number of special pilgrim offers.

The special pilgrim offers were developed in collaboration with a number of Official WYD08 Corporate Affiliates such as Telstra, AVIS, BridgeClimb, Taronga Zoo, Captain Cook Cruises, Harvest Youth Tours, Sydney Airport Shopping and other tourist attractions.

To take up any of these offers please visit WYD08 Pilgrim Offers

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EXPERIENCE AUSTRALIA AND BE PART OF THE ACTION!

Colourful, vibrant, sophisticated and welcoming, our cities are filled with culture - each completely different from one another, but still distinctly Australian. There are parks to walk in, waterways to sail on, amazing sporting and artistic events to see, interesting food to taste and markets to explore.

Our cities blend the Australian laidback lifestyle and cosmopolitan culture perfectly. You can see it in our architecture, experience it in our stylish precincts, shops, theatres and bars and taste it in our food and wine.

With easy access to hundreds of surrounding regions, we welcome you to use our cities as a springboard for your Down Under adventure.

Click here to plan your cities experience

A MESSAGE FROM THE REGISTRATION TEAM

Thank you to all those who have finalised their registration for World Youth Day. For those who haven't we cannot stress enough the importance to **get things done now!**

Please complete your registration, payments and your visa application (if applicable) right away – we do not want you to miss out.

Payments are now due!

If you haven't already, please pay your registration fee.

We are unable to allocate catechesis or accommodation sites without receiving full payment so help us help you.

If you are unable to pay online, alternative methods are available, please contact our registration team on +61 1300 993 793 or gle@wyd2008.org

We will be following up on groups who have not paid so you can expect more emails and phone calls from us.

Information for international pilgrims regarding visas:

The Australian Government has previously said that it cannot guarantee visa applications lodged after 1 June 2008 will be decided in time for travel to Australia.

Applications can still be lodged and the Department will do its best to process these, however it is important that applications for visas are lodged as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Registrations are still open!

Please spread the word! In order to receive the full service, meals, food and transport registration and payment is required immediately. Please remind those who haven't yet registered of the many benefits:

- Priority access to WYD08 major events
- Pilgrim Pack with WYD08 souvenirs
- Free public bus and train travel
- Pilgrim Meals
- Guaranteed access to Randwick Racecourse. Those who are not registered may not make it into Randwick due to limited space and will be directed to Centennial Park.

Due to an overwhelming number of enquiries, our call centre is now open from 8am – 8pm Monday to Friday (Australian Eastern Standard Times).

HEALTH TIP #8: KEY HEALTH TIPS

Your trip to Sydney will be here before you know it! NSW Health encourages you to consider these simple health suggestions.

- We recommend you visit a doctor and get the **current 'flu vaccination**. Make sure you have also been vaccinated against **measles** and **polio**. It is a good idea to travel with a copy of your **vaccination records**.
- Make sure you bring a **list of any prescription medications** you require, as well as **an extra supply** in case your trip home is unexpectedly delayed.
- WYD08 will take place during Sydney's winter, when average temperatures range from 7°C (approximately 45°F) overnight to 16.9°C (approximately 62°F) during the day. It is very important to **pack warm clothing, a warm hat, a good raincoat and a warm sleeping bag.**
- You should bring a spare set of warm clothes to the Randwick Sleep Out – staying warm and dry is essential for maintaining your health and helping you get the most out of your experience.

We suggest you take **multiple snacks and at least one litre of water** to the Randwick Sleep Out. Eating healthy snacks and drinking water regularly will help you keep your energy levels up and reduce the risk of you becoming dangerously cold.

Most importantly**, tell someone (your group leader, accommodation supervisor or first-aider) if you feel unwell**. NSW Health is providing medical units at major venues and an early health check can prevent you from becoming ill and missing out on WYD08 events. Accommodation supervisors can also help you access health care if you start feeling unwell at your accommodation site.

These suggestions are designed to help you have a healthy and comfortable WYD08 experience. More health advice is available from www.health.nsw.gov.au.

PRAYER FOCUS

In June, we ask you to pray for the staff and volunteers of WYD08. We pray that God may continue to strengthen, guide and protect them through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Prayer of a Worker
Lord, Jesus Christ, I offer You today all my work, my hopes, my sorrows and joys. Grant me the grace to remain close to You today, to work with You and to do all that I do for Your honour and glory. Help me to love You with all my heart and to serve You with all my strength.
Help me, Lord, to give a full day's work for a full day's pay. Help me to respect the property of others, to be honest in dealing with those involved in this task, and to put forth effort with personal interest. Give me the spirit of charity that I may contribute to the happiness of all those with whom I work, and when the job is done, grant us all a peaceful rest.

Saint Joseph, patron of workers, pray for me.

For more on the WYD08 Prayer Campaign, click here

Pray a Holy Hour of Power

Join a weekly Holy Hour of Power in you local parish or help start one up with the assistance of your parish priest and members for your parish community. For more information on the WYD08 Eucharistic Adoration campaign, click here

To inspire you….Quotes from Saints

"When the Sisters are exhausted, up to their eyes in work; when all seems to go awry, they spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament. This practice has never failed to bear fruit: they experience peace and strength." Bl Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

QUARANTINE LAWS: WHAT YOU CAN'T TAKE INTO AUSTRALIA?

Before you set on your journey to Sydney for WYD08, make sure you have read the What can't I take into Australia brochure so you're aware of what items must be declared on entering Australia. The brochure can also be downloaded in a number of languages.

Items that are a quarantine concern and must be declared to AQIS include, but are not restricted to:

- Wooden items such as crosses or icons;
- Rosary beads;
- Beeswax candles;
- Holy water and soil;
- Drums or musical instruments and costumes made from materials like rawhide, feathers, fur, animal skins, seeds, nuts, wood, bark or other plant material;
- Food stuffs including snacks and airline food; and
- Used recreational equipment such as camping equipment.

On arrival, you must declare and present all food, plant and animal material, and items used in freshwater streams or lakes.

Most inspected items will be returned to you, however some may need to be treated or seized if found to be a risk. If you don't declare quarantine items, you can receive a $AUD220 on-the-spot fine or face criminal charges.

Your luggage may be x-rayed, inspected or checked by AQIS detector dogs. If you're not sure about what you should declare, AQIS officers are available to help answer any questions.

Click here for more information.