**THE YOUFRA INTERNATIONAL GATHERING AND WYD08**

Three important meetings were held in proximate preparation for the Franciscan Youth International Gathering and World Youth Day, on 13 May, 24 June, and 8 July 2008. Those present at the *Come In Centre*, Paddington, were Nicholas Lucas OFM (Chairman of *Come In Centre*), David Leary (Manager of the *Come In Centre*), Louise Minogue (Principal of St Francis School), Peter McGrath OFM (Parish Priest of Paddington-Edgecliff), Barry Kirby OFM (Guardian of Paddington Friary), Paul Ghanem OFM (Coordinator of OFM Province’s World Youth Day Committee), and Carl Schafer OFM (Convenor).

The following notes are based on the Minutes of the meeting of 8 July, updated after 21 July.

**1. Official name:** The Franciscan Youth International Gathering (FYG) was registered with the WYD Administration under the name of “Youfra-Gifra-Jufra”, group number 5588.

The Franciscan Youth members, when registering for WYD, should have quoted this group name and number to ensure that they would receive home stay at St Francis School, Paddington. Regretfully, this was not pointed out to them in the letters that they received. The WYD Administration had parceled them out for home stay all over Sydney and in the country. The problem was resolved just in time.

**2. Location:** St Francis School and Church were a prime location for the FYG and WYD, accessible to Edgecliff Rail in a 20 minutes’ walk, also to Centennial Park in five minutes, and to the Randwick Racecourse in 40 minutes through Centennial Park.

**3. Security and Supervision:** Br Kelvin of the Catholic Education Office (CEO) sent a memo. Louise Minogue provided four sets of keys and also an evacuation plan. Louise and Kath Neill (Principal of Balmain School) were Site Managers: one was on call to handle emergencies, while the other was sleeping. Louise’s mobile and home number were provided.

We did not know who the Team Leaders until the pilgrims were arrived. They had to register in the city.

**4. Finance:** The Poor Clare Monastery, Campbelltown NSW, donated specifically to the FYG the $20,000 granted by Catholic Church Insurance. Stephen Bliss OFM, Provincial Minister, allowed Fr Carl to keep, in case of necessity, $20,000 that he received as the Executor of a will. The SFO National Fraternity donated $2,000, plus $300 from the W.A. Regional Fraternity. St Johns Park Croatian Centre donated $1,000, to cover the costs of four participants. Springvale SFO Fraternity donated $250 towards the costs of twelve pilgrims from there. Kedron SFO Fraternity donated $645.60 to Fr Ivan Matic OFM to cover incidental expenses during the Gathering.

Most of the donation from the SFO National Fraternity was spent on partly covering the expenses of Rocelyn Sabayo, Leader of the Youfra in the Philippines ($954.51) and the costs of a free-standing model of St Francis ($710) for display at St Francis School and Church and for other purposes beyond WYD.

**5. Cost per participant in FYG:** Xavi Ramos publicized it as free of charge but requested those who could afford it to pay 100 euros (Aust$160). Four from St Johns Park were paid for (costing Aust$640, leaving $360 from the Croatian Centre’s donation).

**6. International Organizers:**

Xavi Ramos (International Councillor for Youfra, Spanish, living in Spain).

Lucy Almirañez (International Councillor for SFO in Asia and Oceania, Filipina, living in the Philippines).

Michele Cannone (Gifra Italia, Italian, living in Italy).

Fr Ivan Matic OFM (General Spiritual Assistant SFO, Croatian, living in Rome).

**7. Accommodation of International Organizers:** Lucy stayed till 15 July, only for FYG, and was accommodated by Eleanor Freeman, in Gordon Street, Paddington. Helen Britton, National Minister SFO-Oceania, was also accommodated by Eleanor. Xavi and Michele arrived on 7 July and stayed at Waverley Friary until 10 July morning. Fr Ivan arrived on 10 July. Fr Ivan, Xavi, and Michele were accommodated in the Franciscan Friary, Paddington from the morning of 10 July until the morning of 21 July. Fr Ivan went to the Croatian friars at Summer Hill, after noon on 21 July.

**8. School holidays:** 4 - 23 July 2008.

**9. Date of FYG:** 12 -15 July 2008. Owing to travel arrangements, seven Vietnamese, four Italian and three U.S.A. participants arrived on 11 July and asked for accommodation in St Francis School on the night of 11 July. Louise approved.

**10. Meeting at Airport:** SFO volunteers, showing a placard, met the flights and drove the pilgrims to Paddington. Five placards, on laminated A4, were printed.

Three or four youths together could have taken a taxi to St Francis School, but this was not necessary. Volunteers met the youths at the school and settled them in their accommodation. A taxi cost about $36. Pilgrims were advised to carry at least Aust$50 before traveling.

**11. Enrolment on 12 July:** from 9 a.m. until 6.30 p.m. The “Leisure Room” of the school was used for the enrolment of the participants and for check-in when they returned each day. We prepared name tags.

**12. Program:**

The program of FYG ended after breakfast on 15 July. The WYD program began with lunch on 15 July and ended on 20 July. Owing to travel arrangements, some participants had to stay in the school till 21 July but had to be out by noon. The school had to be cleaned and the teachers had to prepare the school for the new term, beginning 23 July.

St Francis School was reserved for sleeping. All prayer and other sessions were in the St Francis Church. All meals and the Secretariat were in the *Come In Centre*.

**13. St Francis of Assisi Regional Primary School.**

Classrooms were cleared by school staff and made ready as dormitories.

54 youths registered for FYG: one each from South Africa, Congo-Brazzaville, and France; two from Slovenia; three each from USA and Poland; four each from Italy and the Philippines; seven from Vietnam; sixteen from Croatia, and sixteen from Australia.

One each from Puerto Rio, Tanzania, China, and Bolivia did not succeed in coming; two each from Nigeria and Pakistan did not succeed.

Croatia and Slovenia went elsewhere to their national groups for WYD, leaving 36 youths for WYD at Paddington.

Eight adults were included in the number at Paddington, both in FYG and WYD.

Many generous volunteers came into Paddington by day.

The participants already paid for Package B for WYD ($335), which was a home-stay arrangement.

WYD did not cover costs of Security, Insurance or Sick Care during FYG. However, we were spared serious problems.

David Leary printed four laminated Emergency Exit signs for the doors in the school.

Allocation of dormitories for males and for females: Louise provided a plan when the numbers were known. By Australian law, participants younger than 18 had to be accommodated separately and their sleeping arrangements supervised. Only one was below 18.

The school’s toilet block had three toilets on each of the first and second floor. The school’s few other toilet facilities, plus three parish toilets, were available.

Shower facilities: Youths wore wear bathers in the showers. WYD supplied only one closet of three showers, close to the school, in the playground. This was reserved for the female pilgrims.

One shower, in the Toilet for Disabled in the Friary, was reserved to the male pilgrims. One shower was connected with the *Come In Centre*.

Cleaners in the school: The Catholic Education Office payed for cleaners.

Laundry facilities: *Come In Centre* had a washing machine and a dryer. Mrs Moya Roadley, Regional Minister SFO-Victoria, volunteered to do laundering (in cold water only). Fr Carl bought clothes pegs and a clothesline for under the shelter in the school ground, but it was not used.

**14. St Francis School Hall:** was a dormitory during FYG and WYD but was used also for work in groups.

No food was allowed in the hall or school. No smoking was allowed anywhere indoors, by Australian law. David organized “No Smoking” signs.

**15. Home Stay:** We did not need home stay volunteers, as the school was qualified to accommodate 107 persons.

**16. a) Insurance:** The Catholic Education Office extended the school’s insurance to include the Youth Gathering, so from 12 to 20 July. The school was covered by School Catholic Church Insurance for “Normal Coverage”.

**b) First Aid:** There was a kit on each of the three levels of the school.

**c) Police:** The Surry Hills police checked out the site twice and left their phone number.

**17. St Francis Friary, Paddington:** accommodated Fr Ivan Matic OFM, Xavi Ramos and Michele Cannone from 10 July morning. Fr Ivan arrived in the morning of 10 July.

Fr Barry Kirby, Guardian of St Francis Friary, catered for breakfast from 11 to 21 July, at $10 per person per day. The Friary was reimbursed by cheque from Fr Carl. Volunteers from Paddington and Edgecliff parish gave excellent service.

Toasters were ordered through David Leary. A plumber installed a shower in the quadriplegic bathroom in the Friary.

Jackie Roach ordered mini pizzas from a baker in Edgecliff. Breakfast began at 6.30 a.m. with toast and beverages.

**18. *Come In Centre*:** David provided a total Site Plan (church, Centre, school), to be included in the participants’ pack. Their pack for the YouFra Gathering was a “Slimpick” cardboard wallet.

***Recreation:*** A Pool table was available.

***Syringe box:*** was available for he used needles of diabetics. We had no problems with drugs.

***Kitchen facilities:*** There was one each of: refrigerator, freezer for bread from Bethlehem Monastery, domestic oven, stove top, hot water tap, microwave, power lead from kitchen to outside Spotless refrigerator.

The *After-School Care Centre* had a fridge and a freezer. The *Come In Centre* had two dishwashers and the Friary had four. We had a tray-mobile (trolley) to wheel cutlery and crockery from the Friary to the *Come In Centre*, and volunteers to work dishwashers and trolley.

David ordered toasters from Q Stores. We needed two big toasters to hold 8 pieces each. Toast was stacked in baking dishes. We had urns and a power timer on them.

***Dining room:*** could seat up to 50 but coped well with a shifting number.

There were 14 early arrivals on 11 July. The Friary provide an ample evening meal.

All meals during FYG were served in the *Come In Centre*. Mealtimes were at 1 p.m. and 8 p.m.

On 16 July (Bondi event), the midday meal was the Great Aussie BBQ, at Paddington. Arrangements for evening meals during WYD were made at city centres.

Trestle tables: The school had four in the hall. The church had two. The parish bought eight extra trestles, also for parish use.

Knives and forks: David had 50 sets. He bought another set of 50 at $10 for a set of 10.

Plates and bowls: David paid for 120 settings, for the *Come In Centre*.

Chairs: The school had 20 folding chairs and 30 ordinary chairs.

**19. Secretariat:** We set up a small Secretariat from 12 to 20 July in the Interview Room of the *Come In Centre*, with phone and computer, desk, and desk chair, and two chairs. A printer was made available upstairs.

Access to the Secretariat was limited to Frs Ivan and Carl, Xavi Ramos, Michele Cannone.

Fr Carl bought four packs of Check Tickets, for meal tickets, but they were not used. He bought 70 cardboard “Slimpick” wallets (to carry pages, tickets, etc.) from Office Works, at $39.40. Name tag holders were on hand.

Internet access was provided for email. A notice read: “Please do not download excessive amounts. Internet access is expensive in Australia. Thank you!”

**20. St Francis Church, Paddington:** holds 500 seated or 600 with standing room.

During WYD: Catechesis was held in Englishin the church from 9 a.m. till 12 noon on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, 16 to 18 July. Fr Peter McGrath OFM, Parish Priest, resolved the conflict with Mass in the church, normally at 9 a.m.

The WYD Administration appointed three bishops to give catechesis in English and accommodated them. The bishops were Most Rev. Charles Balvo (Apostolic Nuncio to NZ), Most Rev. Justin Bianchini (Geraldton WA), and Most Rev. Brendan M. O’Brien (Kingston, Ont. Canada).Youths who didn’t understand English could go to other centres. The Poles went once to Coogee for catechesis in Polish. There were no facilities for translation at St Francis Church.

**21. Franciscan Youth Festival:** It is customary for the Youfra to hold a festival during WYD week. Our festival was one of 200 chosen out of 600 entrants for official recognition by the WYD Admin. It was held in St Francis Church on 17 July from 8.30 to 10 p.m.

St Francis Church Choir contributed to the festival, together with items from the Youfra participants and St Clare’s College, Waverley.

The WYD Administration declined to offer any sound props additional to the church’s sound system. Fr Carl hired, for $4,000 a complete audio and visual system from *Audio Visual Events* who set up everything at 2 p.m. on 17 July and dismounted everything at 10 p.m.

**22. St Joseph Church, Edgecliff:**

During FYG, on Monday 14th , we walked down to Edgecliff for Adoration, from 9.30 to 10.30 p.m.

**23. Poor Clare Monastery, “Bethlehem”, Campbelltown:** Was the principal Patron of the Franciscan Youth International Gathering.

“Bethlehem” donated $20,000, being their grant from the Catholic Church Insurance, to be spent on WYD activities.

“Bethlehem” provided deep-frozen bread, accumulated from a bakery donor in Campbelltown. It was brought down to Paddington on 10 July and stored in the deep freeze in the *Come In Centre*.

**24. Maryfields Friary, Campbelltown:** lent their portable sound system to the FYG, but we did not have to use it.

Br Garry had renovated the toilets under the Kiosk at old Maryfields. The friars at Maryfields and Minto met the young people at Bethlehem Monastery and were invited to concelebrate the Eucharist.

**25. Pilgrimage to Campbelltown:** Sunday 13th: Two buses left Gordon Street, Paddington, at 2 p.m. First stop was at Maryfields kiosk. The youths could also make a brief pilgrimage to Calvary Hill. At the monastery, we had afternoon tea at 3.30 p.m., and Mass at 5 p.m. We left immediately at 6.15 p.m., for Paddington, for dinner at 8 p.m.

**26. Buses:** Two buses were hired from Telford Tours Reservations at $695 including GST per bus return ($1,390).

**27. Catering:**

Spotless Services Australia Ltd, through Shane Horner, Site Catering Manager at St Joseph’s College, Hunters Hill, catered for the FYG, from lunch on 12 July till the evening meal (dinner) on Monday 14 July. Lunch was a cold pack. Dinner was cooked by Tim Sheil and parish volunteers, on hired barbecues. Lunch cost $8.90 per person including GST. Dinner cost $9.50 per person including GST. From 12 to 20 July, we hired, from Patty’s Hire, two barbecues until 17 July ($457.50), which were delivered on Saturday morning, 12 July. We hired, from Spotless until 20 July, a mobile cool room to be located outside the *Come In Centre*, near the kitchen window. Also, three *bains marie* were hired.

Insurance was included with the cool room. It needed a padlock. The barbecues were not insured. They were easy to move and to store inside, with their gas bottles.

**Other items of interest:**

**28. Logo:** Michele Cannone designed a logo for FYG, resembling the official WYD logo but different. On 7 November 2007, Fr Carl submitted it to the WYD Admin. for official approval, but they did not approve it. However, Michele wanted to use it on the three items noted below, in 30, 31 and 32 . (See WYD General Terms 8.) Michele designed and used another very attractive kangaroo logo as well. Fr Carl emailed Fr Ivan, Xavi Ramos, Michele Cannone and Lucy Almiranez on 14 July, cancelling use of the unapproved logo. Michele decided to use the official WYD logo.

**29. Liturgy Booklet:** Click Printing, Blacktown, printed 120 copies of a booklet prepared by Fr Ivan Matic OFM and Michele Cannone, at the cost of about $5 each.

**30. T-shirts:** Michele Cannone designed the covers of the liturgy booklet and the front and back of a Youfra T-shirt, to be printed by TeamZ, in Unanderra NSW.

**31. Banner:** The FYG banner, designed by Michele, was printed in the Philippines, and brought out. The Philippines covered the cost.

**32. Model of St Francis:** Margaret Sykes, Regional Minister SFO-Tasmania and artist in Hobart donated a free-standing model of St Francis that people could be photographed with. It was strongly supported by a metal spine and base. Costs of production ($710) were covered by the National Executive SFO-Oceania.

**33. Leaflet: “Saint Francis of Assisi Patron of the Environment”:** Margaret Sykes had produced a colourful leaflet, on A4 folded four times, with commentary and artwork.

This project was funded by the OFM Province (Stephen Bliss OFM). She also produced a poster of the main artwork. These items were distributed during the FYG and Vocations Expo during WYD, and in St Francis School. Fr Paul Ghanem OFM received a supply. Louise Minogue also received a supply.

**34. Australian Law:** Fr Paul provided the relevant text regarding WYD, translated into languages. A copy was included in the participants’ wallets.

**35. Registration and Accreditation of Priests:** From 9 July,priests were to register and be accredited for concelebration. They picked up a red-and-white WYD stole.

**36. Email and Web sites:**

David set up an email address: [WYD\_paddo@stfrancis.org.au](mailto:WYD_paddo@stfrancis.org.au) for the Secretariat downstairs in the *Come In Centre*.

The Franciscan Youth International Gathering has its own web site, set up by Michele Cannone: [www.ciofs.org/wyd2008](http://www.ciofs.org/wyd2008)

Carl Schafer OFM, National Spiritual Assistant SFO-Oceania, has included a WYD page, and pages for Franciscan Youth and the Franciscan Youth International Gathering on his web site: [www.franciscans.org.au/sfo/sfo21/wyd.htm](http://www.franciscans.org.au/sfo/sfo21/wyd.htm) He received official approval for using the WYD logo on his web page.

37. ***FYG* Participants*:*** Only a few days before FYG, Fr Carl received a final list of names of registered participants and details of arrivals and departures. He listed the number of males and females registered, about equal numbers, and indicated those (one girl) under 18. The approved age of participants was 18 to 35.

Carl Schafer OFM