

Fundraising is an important part of your preparations for World Youth Day. Because this is a pilgrimage – focused on prayer, reflection, celebrating the Sacraments and deepening our faith – our fundraising efforts can have a profound spiritual component, especially as we seek the support of our Christian community.

To help you begin on your fundraising preparations, consider three types of fundraising that can help you get to World Youth Day in Madrid 2011:

### **Sacrifice**

What things can you sacrifice, or give up, to save money for World Youth Day? Can you give up your daily coffee or soda, treats, movie theater tickets, accessories, DVDs, or video games? These small sacrifices can really add up over time, helping you to save for your pilgrimage and ready yourself spiritually.

### **Personal Fundraising**

How can you, as an individual, earn extra money to help you get to World Youth Day? Perhaps you can look for extra odd-jobs, such as lawn-care or babysitting, or work a few extra hours each week. Another way to raise money is by sending a letter to friends and family asking for their support. Explain what a pilgrimage is, ask them to join you in making a small sacrifice and promise to pray for them and their intentions on your journey. In this way, even though they may not be able to travel alongside you, they can be a part of your pilgrimage spiritual, as well as financial, way. We have included a sample letter that may assist you in your fundraising efforts.

### **Parish Fundraising**

Whether there is a group of pilgrims from your parish or just you, parish fundraisers are a great way to raise money for your pilgrimage and strengthen the life of your community! **Approach your pastor soon and ask about the possibility of fundraising in your parish. Make sure that you explain the purpose of your fundraising and your ideas and ask for permission, parameters and guidelines.** When you take pledges or funds, also take prayer intentions, and when you return, put together a slideshow presentation and share the fruits of your pilgrimage with members of your parish. You can even send postcards and letters to your sponsors while you are journeying. Included is a list of fundraising ideas for individuals or groups in parishes.

We pray that the Lord will bless your sacrifices and fundraising efforts as you prepare for World Youth Day!

## **Fundraising Ideas**

**\*\*\*Remember to meet with your pastor first to get permission for fundraising and parameters and guidelines for your parish!**

**Auction** – Get members of your community to donate goods, services or talents (for example, a haircut, lawn job, babysitting hours, painting, etc.) and then auction them off!

**Babysitting** – Volunteer your group's services at a parish or local event. Put up a sign explaining your fundraiser and set out a jar or hat! Read stories, play games, provide a snack...your efforts will certainly "pay" off!

**Bake Sale** – Sell baked goodies at a local event. Your group could even sell muffins, croissants, bagels and fruit after Sunday Mass!

**Buy a Mile** - Make a large poster with a trail from your town to the destination and have small slips of paper that are proportional to the amount needed for each mile. Have teens after Mass take donations and allow contributors to place strips of paper to show progress.

**Cake Walk** – Have your teens make the cakes themselves and attach a personal note and prayer to their culinary masterpiece! (One variation of this, if you'd rather not use cake, is to have a "stuff walk" instead, with donated items as the prizes instead! For example, CDs, movies, popcorn, books, crayons, etc.)

**Car Wash** – Put a note in the bulletin with the date of your carwash. Have parishioners park their cars in a certain area on the day of your fundraiser (can ask them to leave their keys for another adult to drive it to washing station, or you can bring the washing station to the car). Set out a donation bucket and enjoy the water and sun! (note: please remember modesty! T-shirts worn over swimsuits is a great solution!)

**Cookbook** – Ask members of your parish to submit recipes and pictures of their favorite dishes. Compile them and produce a Parish Cookbook to sell!

**Kiss the Pig** – Put collection jars in your community, with a note explaining your project: If you raise X\$\$\$\$, your pastor will kiss a pig!

**Penny Wars** – Divide your youth group into two teams, assigning each a jar. Have each team collect pennies in their jar. The trick is, for every penny, your team gets a point. For every piece of silver or dollar bill, that money gets subtracted from your points. The object is to put as much silver and bills in your opponents jar, while getting pennies for yourself! The team with the most points wins!

**Pie-in-the-Face** – Ask your pastor or parish staff to help you with this fundraiser! Purchase cans of whipped cream and paper plates. At a parish event, make the pies and sell chances to “cream” the pastor or staff! (note: remember paper towels and baby wipes...it gets messy!)

**Potted Flower Sale** – Either plant your own flower seeds, or purchase small plants from a garden center. Purchase clay pots and acrylic paint. Decorate the pots and then plant the flowers. Sell them after Mass or at a parish event.

**Raffle** – Your group can raffle off donated items, or sponsor 50/50 raffle, where half of the proceeds go to the winning ticket, and the other half goes to the cause.

**Ransom** – Kidnap the pastor! Spend an afternoon calling parishioners, asking them to contribute to the ransom for the pastor. (It’s not hard to get the pastor to agree if he is kidnapped to a round of golf or a great lunch! 😊)

**Rosaries** – Make beaded or rope rosaries and sell to members of your parish and community. You can even decorate rosary bags or cases and enclose a note with a personal prayer from the youth.

**S’mores** – Make and sell s’mores at a parish or local event. No one can resist that gooey treat!

**Spud Sale** – Sponsor a baked-potato dinner at your parish! Provide the potato and all the fixin’s for a great meal!

**Starving Artists** – Gather the musical talent in your youth group, learn some great songs, and then perform (as part of an event, or at a local site) with a hat for donations. Make sure you have a sign explaining who you are and what you are doing. No one can deny a starving artist! 😊

**Teen Booth at Parish Picnic** - Sell religious items, rosaries or even sno-cones!

**Yard Sale** – Collect donated items from your parish and community and sell at a youth-run yard sale. You could include face painting, a bake sale or lemonade stand in your event!

March 1, 2010

Dear Friends and Family,

I am writing to ask if you would consider helping me get to World Youth Day with Pope Benedict XVI. The Holy Father has invited the youth of the Church to gather with him in Madrid, Spain in 2011. I will be joining over 100 teens and young adults from my diocese next August for this incredible pilgrimage!

A pilgrimage is a different kind of trip, one that takes a lot of preparation, sacrifice, and especially prayer. On this particular pilgrimage, we will begin in Lourdes with a retreat with Bishop Rhoades and some of our parish priests. We will also visit the birthplace of St. Ignatius of Loyola and the Cathedral at Burgos. In Madrid, we will spend the week with over a million other young people, praying, celebrating the Sacraments, learning more about our faith and making new friends from all over the world. World Youth Day ends with Mass with the Holy Father, where he will speak to us about living our faith in today's world and responding to God's call with our lives.

Even though I am making many sacrifices to save money for this pilgrimage, I will not be able to raise enough money on my own, and am asking you, my friends and family, for your help and support. Would you consider making a small sacrifice to help me get to World Youth Day?

I would also like to take your prayer intentions with me on this pilgrimage, and promise to pray for you and your intentions along the way. Please let me know what I can pray for!

I can't wait to tell you more about my journey, and to share pictures and stories with you when I return! Thank you so much for being a part of my life and for helping me prepare for this once-in-a-lifetime experience!

Please keep me in your prayers! And may God continue to bless you!

Sincerely,