

PRAYING for OUR YOUTH CELEBRATING WORLD YOUTH DAY

"We have come to worship Him."

- Matthew 2:2



**XX
World Youth Day
Cologne 2005**

Thousands of high school and college aged students along with young adults from all over the world will gather in Cologne, Germany this month. The theme, "We have come to worship Him" is especially significant because according to tradition, the great cathedral in Cologne houses the relics of the Magi who are attributed with this verse from Matthew's Gospel. The object of this gathering is to call our youth to a closer relationship with the Lord Jesus and make them effective witnesses of Him in our world.

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Brothers and sisters, the Lord Jesus shall return again with His Father's glory, over the earth to reign; He is God the Savior. He is Christ the Lord, ever to be worshiped, always blest and adored.

Let us pause and remember
that we are continually in the holy presence of our God.
Come, let us worship the Triune God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

O, come let us adore Him,
O, come let us adore Him.
O, come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

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MATTHEW 2:1 – 2,9 – 11

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came Wise Men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is He that is born King of the Jews? We have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him. When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young Child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young Child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented to Him gifts; gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

REFLECTION

The Magi reached Bethlehem because they had obediently allowed themselves to be guided by the star. It is important to learn to observe the signs with which the Lord is calling us and guiding us.

When we are conscious of being led by Him, our heart experiences authentic and deep joy as well as a powerful desire to meet Him and a persevering strength to follow Him obediently.

–John Paul II

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INTERCESSIONS

Response: Lord of Light and Life, hear us.

That we, the Church,
may proclaim the Gospel to every land and people, we pray:

That all those participating in World Youth Day 2005
may grow in their relationship and commitment to God
and to a life of service, we pray:

That the Holy Spirit may guide the youth on pilgrimage
just as the same Holy Spirit guides the Pilgrim Church, we pray:

That all youth and young adults will hear the voice of God calling them
and seriously discern their vocation in life, we pray:

That we, the Church throughout the world,
may be open to the gifts and zest for life that young people bring to us, we pray:

That those who are unable to attend the World Youth Day in Cologne,
may continue to mature in God's unconditional love, we pray:

That the people going on pilgrimage to Cologne
will be protected from all harm and danger and return home safely, we pray:

PRAYER

Lord Jesus Christ,
Savior of the World,
You became man,
to give us a life in abundance.
You promised to remain with Your Church
until the end of time.
Then Your Kingdom will come:
a new heaven and earth
full of love, justice and peace.
This is our hope, our foundation.
Thanks be to You.

Lord, we pray.
Bless the young people around the world.
Reveal Yourself to those who are in search of You.
Awake the non-believers.
Strengthen the faith of those who confess You.
Let them continuously search for You
like the three Wise Men from the East.
Make them architects of a new civilization of love
and witnesses of hope for the whole world.
Through them may You be with those
who suffer from hunger, war and violence.
Inspire those who are contributing with the power of their faith and their love
and may they welcome their brothers and sisters
from all over the world with open hearts.
Lord, You gave us Mary as our mother.
Let her be our advocate for this World Youth Day.
May it become a celebration of faith.
Bless Your Church with new strength in these days,
so that it can become a credible witness of You.
We ask this through our Lord and God,
living in the unity of the Father and the Holy Spirit,
reigning forever and ever.
Amen.

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PSALM 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the Lord,
that will I seek after:
to live in the house of the Lord
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord,
and to inquire in His temple

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud,
be gracious to me and answer me!
"Come," my heart says, "seek His face!"
Your face, Lord, do I seek.
do not hide Your face from me.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the Lord!

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Loving God, you care for us more than we can ever imagine, and you are always near for those who seek you. Bless those who are about to begin this pilgrimage, to join other youth from all over the world and to celebrate their (our) life in one Church. Guide them (us) on their (our) way, be their (our) companion, and bring them (us) safely to Cologne. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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May God be constantly at their side and in His loving care guide their journey. Amen.

May God grant that this journey indeed be a pilgrimage and an experience of the Holy Spirit at work in the Church. Amen.

May God be their companion not only on this journey but on the journey of life. Amen.

May almighty God bless them and us and hear our prayers for a safe and fruitful pilgrimage. Amen.

Holy patrons of the Cologne Youth Days, watch over the pilgrim youth.

Blessed Adolph Koplring (1829-1916)

Saint Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, OCD (1891-1942)

Saint Albert the Great (1206-1280)

Saint Ursula – patron of Cologne

The Three Magi

Saint Boniface – patron of Germany

Saint John Baptist de La Salle

and all you holy Brothers who have gone before us,
Inspire us to have a great solicitude for our youth.

Live Jesus in our hearts.