

PASSIONIST YOUTH ENCOUNTER
MELBOURNE, 9-12 JULY 2008



What's The Story ? ? ?

www.passion8.org.au
www.wyd2008.org

No.5: December 2007

Stats & Figures

Pilgrims Registered	78
Months Until WYD	9

Countdown to WYD:
7 MONTHS TO GO!

Young Passionist Meeting

The first of the **Passionist Gatherings** prior to World Youth Day will be the Young Passionist Meeting (YPM) to be held at Holy Cross Templestowe.

The Superior General has asked all Provinces, Vice-Provinces and Vicariates to send at least one of their younger religious to this meeting with his Council, so that they might explore together some of the vital aspects of restructuring called on by the last General Chapter. He has also asked them to participate in our first Passionist World Youth Day Encounter with our Young People.

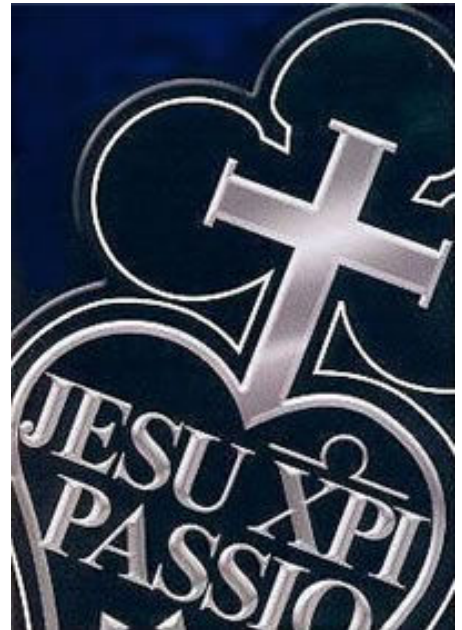
All participants are asked to arrive in Melbourne prior to Saturday. Early accommodation is available in the

days before hand, as the religious will need some rest days to get over the jet lag, and to explore the City.

The Meeting starts on Saturday 5th July at 4pm and concludes on Wednesday 9th July at lunch.

Transport to Endeavour Hills will be provided by bus at 2pm, This is only a 30-40 minute trip. There we will join our young people for the remainder of the week for the **Passionist Youth Encounter (PYE)**.

The younger religious will have a choice of commuting to and from Templestowe each day, or of joining the Home Stay Programme in Endeavour Hills with their Young People.



Passionist Youth Encounter

The second of the **Passionist Gatherings** will be the Passionist Youth Encounter (PYE) will be held at the Church and School of St Paul Apostle Endeavour Hills, approximately 30km from Templestowe. This is an outer urban suburb of 26,000 people, with most of the people from overseas. The Catholic Community boasts people from 76 countries or origin. The Passionists have lived and ministered here since July 1998.

The Young People will have gathered on the morning of Wednesday 9th

July for an orientation and will have prepared for the outdoors Opening Ceremony (4pm) and the Opening Mass (5pm) to be held at the Church.

Registrations on 10th December are:

- Pilgrims from Overseas 162
- Passionists from Overseas 16
- Pilgrims from Australia 40
- Passionists from Australia 15
- Passionist General Council 5
- Bishops 2

Total to date 240

Passionists & Young Pilgrims now

represent the following countries: Argentina, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Portugal, Puerto Rico, Scotland, USA & Zambia.

John Pearce CP:

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Are you game enough to join us?

Passionists Contributions to WYD08

A Christmas Gift to the Passionists was the announcement on Friday 21st December that all our applications for Festival Events for World Youth Day have been accepted. This is a great Christmas Gift for us in our planning, as the WYD08 Directors & the PCL (Pontifical Council for the Laity) only accepted 270 of the 600 applications. After Christmas the real planning begins.

The First Event is SONGS OF PASSION an evening of song featuring professional and amateur performers At St Brigid's Church. The professional performers are local singers and song writers, Andrew Chinn, John Burland & John Jacobs. Joining them will be the Michael Ham College Singers from Argentina, the Passionist Pilgrims from USA and the Vanimo Diocesan Youth Dancers from Papua New Guinea. Other Pilgrim groups who wish to submit items for this night are asked to contact John before the end of January.

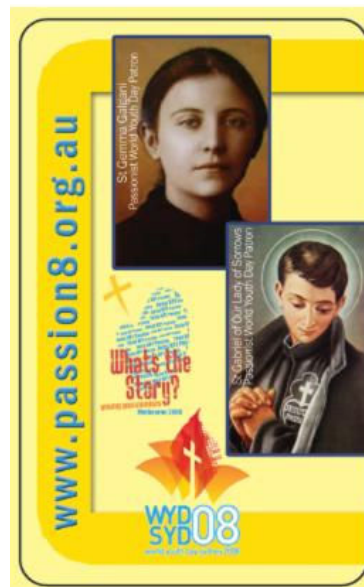
The Second Event is the PASSIONIST RELICS. Thanks to the generosity of the Superior General and also the

Postulator General, Fr Giovanni Zubiani CP, we will have the relics of our two Patrons for the Passionist WYD Project, **St Gemma Galgani** and **St Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows**, coming to Australia for two months. Also, we will have the relics of **St Maria Goretti**, one of the Patrons of World Youth Day. These Relics will be in the care of the various Communities and the St Gabriel Associations in Sydney, Adelaide & Melbourne prior to the Passionist Encounters in Melbourne from 1-12 July, then in Sydney at our Church of St Brigid in Marrickville from 12-21 July. There is great excitement in the National World Youth Day Office about the presence of these relics. As previously announced, these three young saints were presented by Pope Benedict XVI at Loreto as some of the role models for young people today.

The Third Festival Event will be the celebration of the **Prayer of the Church with NIGHT PRAYER** at St Brigid's on the Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday Nights. Of WYD Week. At these times of prayer we invite Pilgrims returning from Festival Events in the City to gather with members of the Parish Community for Prayer to end the day.

The Fourth Festival Event in another category is for a

major booth in the **VOCATIONS EXPO** at Darling Harbour. So far, three Congregations of our Passionist Family have agreed to work together on this project. Others are invited to join us if they are registering for World Youth Day. This is an exciting opportunity to show case the life and ministries of the male and female branches of the Passionist Family across the world to the Young Pilgrims. We will be inviting Passionists and Young Pilgrims to assist in staffing this booth through the week.



Reasons Against Coming to WYD

It's a long way to travel is one of the messages we are still receiving from across the world. Yes, it is a long way. When Passionists travel to international meetings from Australia it can take from 25-36 hours in travel. But we do it because we are part of an International Community. We know we need to be connected so that we can experience the richness of life and mission from our brothers and sisters overseas. Despite the length of travel, we expect more than 150,000 Pilgrims coming to Australia from Overseas. Australia is preparing to welcome them.

It costs too much is another or Australians, this is the cost we bear to break out of our isolation. WYD is an event that needs to be saved for, and an event that Church groups need to sponsor. In one country, Local Passionist Communities are sponsoring 2 Pilgrims

from their ministry group, so that the Young Pilgrims are paying a third of the costs. This is a generous offer from the local Community and Parish, and an investment that can be built on. Knowing that the countries of Oceania (the South West Pacific rim) have had so few Pilgrims at WYD, and can't afford to get to Australia, the Australian Dioceses and Communities are fund raising to assist them to get here. The Passionists are sponsoring young people from the Diocese of Vanimo in Papua New Guinea. Being near the equator, we know they will need winter clothing and sleeping bags as starters.

We could spend the money better at home on a Youth Project. Yes. You can't beat that argument. But coming together as Passionists from across the world, we have a lot to teach each other, and lot to take home. There are great things happening on various parts of the Congregation, initiatives we can share.

Jessica Gomes from Marrickville assisting with the arrival of the WYD Cross in Sydney on 1 July 2007

Why not make this the time to begin to share the gifts we have.

What can the Aussies teach us? Well, unless you come and find out, you won't know. For one, we are one of the most multi-cultural countries in the world. Since World War II, we have slowly shaken off our euro-centric isolation and embraced the new peoples arriving to start a home here. In the two Parishes of Marrickville and Endeavour Hills, we represent the Australia of tomorrow, with peoples from over 75 countries of origin. English is the common language in our cities, yet in these two suburbs alone, other languages are spoken in more than 50% of our homes. But we are still learning.

Are you game enough to join us?

If you have any questions or would like to register for the **Passionist Youth Encounter** please contact:
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