

The “noise” in Rio 2013

The young people of the Focolare Movement at the end of WYD

Comments, impressions and intentions of some young people of the Focolare Movement who, in Rio and in other different parts of the world, followed World Youth Day.

Donna from Lebanon says, “The Pope speaks in a very simple and direct way, one that is more suitable to our times”.

For Joaquìn, an Argentinian who followed WYD from a distance, “to make noise” means to be a driving force in society. “I really feel part of what Pope Francis said about young people – elderly – adults. Now I am young, so this is what I have to do. I like this more general view, which is the right one”.

Francesco, an Italian adds: “What strikes me most is ‘how’ he says things. However, after these days I feel that I have to commit myself seriously towards renewing society from within by trying to live the Gospel in everyday life”.

Nahomi from Paraguay: “The experience of WYD helps me to renew myself as a young member of the Focolare Movement”.

And **Joaquìn also says:** “It seems that during this WYD, it is not the young people who are urging on the Pope, but it is rather the Pope who is urging them. It is amazing! I regret not having done my best to go to Rio. Now, when I see all that is happening, the videos, the energy that is being transmitted only through contact by internet....I really wish that I would have gone!”.

Daniela, Italian: “This reciprocity between generations” which the Pope insists on, can become an explosive force, a mutual aid. After having followed this WYD, deep down in my heart, I feel a great desire to live a more radical life and to go out towards others so that my everyday life can be that window through which the future enters the world!”

Iggy, from New Zealand: “This WYD pushes us to revolutionize the world around us and ‘conquer’ other young people to live such a life, especially in my country, in New Zealand, because there are many people who do not believe in God”.

*The young people of **Rio de Janeiro** who participated in the group of **interreligious dialogue** say:*

Fuminori (Catholic): “WYD gives evidence of what is happening in Rio among Catholics, Methodists, Baptists and others. Non-Catholics have given their share towards this event by hosting young people in their homes and offering fraternal cordiality”.

Carlos (Presbyterian): “WYD has brought a new spirit to the city. There is music, celebration and a tone of voice that is above the institutions. These are the youth of Christ, so they bring with them a new form of religious identification that goes beyond institutional walls”.

Fernando (Muslim): “I see WYD as something very positive, because it is an opportunity for young people from different backgrounds to get together and talk about values and principles that are of great importance to everyone. This is also a meeting with God, and so it always leads to wonderful results in the renewal of one’s faith”.

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