

NEWSLETTER

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Serving Without Interest

To serve without interest; to be selfless and altruistic, is not being naive, but a recognition that our world is a better place when we fulfil our duties to one another out of a sense of responsibility without expecting anything in return. Choosing to act just because it is the right thing. When we serve selflessly, we choose to use our freedom based on the criterion of the just good (bonum honestum) as opposed simply out of utility or pleasure.

In a way, we must all be like a watch(wo)man. Guarding the property of others, looking out for the needs of others. In fulfilling our watchful responsibilities towards society, we ensure that others in society have their rights realised. Equally, as this is a circle of trust and selfless act, we have our rights realised in return as others are on the watch for our needs.

We cannot and must not live in a world focused on the self, were something has value only if it can be given a price. Most of the things in life have value in themselves and we must recognise and celebrate this reality. This is the only way to ensure that we live in a free and equitable world where everyone has a chance to reach their potential, whether that everyone is the current generation or a future generation yet to be born.

We should seek to model our life on that of Mary, the mother of Christ, in the way we seek to act selflessly in the interests of others, even when it is not convenient for us, for our careers, for our image and for our wealth. Doing the right thing most of the time involves giving something up, whether it's time, ego, image!

In the gospels we come across several instances where Mary is portrayed as a person of empathy seeking to act to help people in need. To list a few, her acceptance to become the mother of God, leaving everything to go and assist Elisabeth, the Wedding of Kana when she steps in to help the bride and bridegroom because they ran out of wine, and Mary on calvary becoming the mother of humanity.

One of these episodes, Mary leaving to assist Elisabeth, happens to be the theme of the next World Youth Day, "Mary rose and went with haste" (Luke 1:39). In Mary we observe a sense of action, a sense of urgency, a sense of movement.

We also must feel the same urgency to go out into the world to seek out those in the fringes of society, to hear their plea for help, to hear their story, to stand up for those in our society who do not have a voice. In this way through our selfless act of compassion and empathy we spread hope and the light of Christ.

Our society is in turmoil, it's in a battle with itself. Values that give us our identity, that make us who we are, are being torn apart simply because they are seen as outdated "tal-passat", or simply to do things differently, without realising that these values serve us well. Worse, simply ditching these values because they are safeguards (imposed by conscious or common decency) against abusing our freedom at the expense of the rest of society.

It is becoming common occurrence to rather than debate constructively we use intimidation, deceit and half truths to have our way. To label people without hearing them out, to use power and twisted public opinion to govern by sleight of hand. To misinform and misrepresent by exposing facts which are convenient to win an argument rather than exploring facts in their entirety to come up with an honest course of action to address big questions in a way that safeguard the common good of all, whether at the sunrise of the human journey, or at its sunset.

At the beginning of a New Year, let us all make this resolution, to seek in our actions to act selflessly to serve each other.

Be the change you want to see, be that change today!

World Youth Day



World Youth Day (WYD) is a gathering of youth and young adults for prayer, worship, and celebration of the Catholic faith.

Following the Church's Youth Jubilee (1984), a special meeting between the pope and young Catholics held at the conclusion of the 1983–84 Year of Jubilee, and the United Nations International Youth Year (1985) St. John Paul II was inspired to establish World Youth Day.

Nowadays World Youth Day is a worldwide encounter with the Pope celebrated every three years in a different country. The most recent WYD was celebrated in Panama City, Panamá between the 22nd and 27th of January 2019.

The next World Youth Day will be held in Lisbon, Portugal between the 1st and 6th of August 2023 and has the theme "Mary arose and went with haste. (Lk 1:39)". If you would like to learn more head to the [official website](#) for more information.

WYD is open to all young people who want to take part in a festive encounter centred around Jesus Christ. This event is an opportunity to personally experience the universality of the Catholic Church, and to share with the whole world the hope of many young people who are committing their lives to Christ and His Church. World Youth Day is a unique way to deepen your faith and grow closer to Christ, through prayer and the sacraments, together with hundreds of thousands of other young people who share your interests and ambitions.

Various groups in Malta attend the WYD. If you are interested and maybe you missed out on booking your attendance with a local group you can still make it to Lisbon for this great celebration of faith. Have a look [here](#) for more information.

Past Events

Past WYD events have been well [attended](#). Below are a few statistics for the mathematically inclined.

Year	Country	Attendance	Theme
1984	Vatican City	300,000	Holy Year of the Redemption: A Festival of Hope
1985	Italy	300,000	International Youth Year
1987	Argentina	1,000,000	We have recognized the love that God has for us,
1989	Spain	600,000	I am the Way, the Truth and the Life (Jn 14:6)
1991	Poland	1,600,000	You have received a spirit of children (Rom 8:15)
1993	USA	700,000	I came that they might have life, and have it to the
1995	Philippines	5,000,000	As the Father has sent me, so am I sending you (Jn
1997	France	1,200,000	Teacher, where do you live? Come and see (cf. Jn
2000	Italy	2,000,000	The Word became flesh and dwelt among us (Jn
2002	Canada	800,000	You are the salt of the earth ... you are the light of
2005	Germany	1,000,000	We have come to worship Him (Mt 2:2)
2008	Australia	400,000	You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes
2011	Spain	1,400,000+	Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the
2013	Brazil	3,700,000	Go and make disciples of all nations (Mt 28:19)
2016	Poland	1,500,000+	Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mer-
2019	Panama	700,000	I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me



ZHN YouTube Channel

We are pleased to announce that talks held by ZHN in the Cardijn lecture series are now available online. If you would like to catchup on past talks in the series head to our [YouTube Channel](#).

Receipt of funding

It is with great pleasure and thanks that ZHN announces the receipt of a round of funding from Agenzija Zghazagh "Assistance For You" (A4U) scheme. This funding will help us make the Floriana premises a better place where young workers can meet to share ideas and be catalysts for change.