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Rome, December 21st, 2022

To all YouFra National Councils
To all the National Councils of the OFS
To the International Councillors of YouFra and the OFS

Convocatory YouFra International Gathering (YIG) and WYD, Lisbon, 2023

Dear brothers and sisters,

Peace and Good!

Pope Francis has invited all the young people of the world to live the next World Youth Day in Lisbon, Portugal, from **August 1 to 6, 2023**, and has chosen as his motto the biblical quotation from the Gospel of St. Luke "Mary rose and departed without delay" (Lk 1:39), a biblical phrase that presents the example that young people need to follow in these times when fear and uncertainty are present in all parts of the world, the example of our Mother the Virgin Mary, an example of trust and total surrender to the will of God, without fear, with faith, with hope.

The Franciscan Youth will be present at this World Youth Day and will celebrate its International Gathering in Lisbon from **July 27 to August 1**, **2023**, with the motto "Get up, your neighbor awaits you".

This International Gathering aims to bring together young people of the Franciscan Youth from all over the world to share and live the gift of fraternity. In addition, according to the conclusions of our 3rd International Assembly YouFra, Mexico 2022, an **Extraordinary International Assembly of YouFra** will be held during this gathering to elect in person the new International Councilors of YouFra 2023-2026.

All members of the Franciscan Youth from all over the world, fraternal animators OFS, Spiritual Assistants and with greater priority due to the celebration of the Extraordinary International Assembly, all the International Delegates of the Constituted National Fraternities are convened.

We ask all National Presidents to confirm the number of their participants before **January 31**, **2023**, through the following Google form: https://forms.gle/ztbRX6Jf8AAfWXmBA

In the form you must specify two numbers of participants, one of confirmed participants and one other of possible participants, then we will inform each one if it is possible to receive all the indicated participants or if it is necessary to limit them.

Those fraternities that do not have a national council can send their answers individually, through the OFS national council or through their Spiritual Assistant.

Overview:

During YIG and WYD, all YouFra participants will be hosted in the "Externato da Luz" school, located in Telheiras, Largo da Luz, n.º 11, Lisbon, Portugal.

The cost of participation for the YouFra International Gathering will be 200 euros per person, this includes the cost of transfer from the airport to the place of the event (by metro), food and lodging.

The package chosen to participate in WYD will be 235 euros, the registration process will be carried out as a Macro Group, no one should make individual or small group registrations, later the instructions will be given regarding this process, but you should know that it is necessary to have all the participation fees before April 2023.

The package of 235 euros of WYD includes accommodation, food, entrance to the different events and public transport during the days of the WYD.

Through the organization of WYD, the necessary documents will be provided for those who require a visa to enter Portugal.

Considering that it will not be possible to stay at the event venue before or after the dates of YIG and WYD, all those who wish to stay more days or arrive days earlier than planned must individually organize their stay in Portugal.

Important: all participants must contract travel insurance (medical and travel) with coverage for the days of the YIG and WYD. The International Coordination and the local OFS-YUFRA fraternity are not responsible for mishaps that may occur if the participant does not have insurance.

May this season of Advent and Christmas motivate us to continue trusting in God's will, just as our Mother the Virgin Mary did, who did not delay in getting up and leaving to announce the Good News.

Fraternally;

Felix Chocojay
YouFra International Coordinator

Silvia Diana International Fraternal Animator

Fr. Carlos Campos, TOR Assistant General of the OFS and YouFra International

