

World Youth Day was described by Benedict XVI as 'a celebration of faith'. The reason is clear: these events breed an atmosphere of joy, sharing and enthusiasm that offers both a wealth of opportunity to reflect and, above all, encounter Jesus through the sacraments and prayer.

The Madrid World Youth Days were no exception. Young people from all over the world gathered to listen to the Successor of Peter and receive guidance from him on how to be a Catholic in the modern world. And while young people readied themselves for the occasion – through catechesis, confession, Masses, Stations of the Cross and much more – they gave colour to the city, welcomed strangers, made new friends, sang and danced in the streets and subways... expressed, that is, the joy of living that is characteristic of young people when they have dreams and believe in something (or better yet, Someone) to hope for.

