

Archbishop of Montreal

Friday, April 27, 2018

Dear Pastors, Dear members of pastoral teams, Dear collaborators in the mission,

The next international WYD will take place from January 22-27 2019 in Panama. The theme of the 34th World Youth Day in Panama is: "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." (Lk 1:38) This follows a three year itinerary inspired by the Annunciation, as proposed by Pope Francis. The themes of WYD 2017 and 2018 were "The Almighty has done great things for me" (Lk 1:49) and "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God" (Lk 1:30), respectively.

If your community is not able to form a group to participate in this WYD, I invite you to consider naming and sponsoring one or two young adults to represent your community in Panama. I am convinced that this will bring a multitude of graces not only to the young adults, but to the community as well.

Participating in an international WYD with Pope Francis and other young people from all around the world is an opportunity for young adults to live and experience an encounter with Jesus Christ in a festive and prayerful atmosphere. It is also the ideal occasion for them to overcome the feeling of being *alone in our faith* and to share with other young people from all continents. Young adults often return from a World Youth Day pilgrimage filled with joy and enthusiasm, and eager to share their gifts and talents with the Church and the world.

For more information, please contact Isabel Correa at 514-925-4300 ext. 273 or visit the website <u>www.jmjwydmtl.org</u>.

With my most sincere greetings in Jesus Christ,

[†]Most Rev. Christian Lépine Archbishop of Montreal

