



DIOCESE OF RALEIGH

Office of the Bishop

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December 10, 2009

Dear Brother Priests,

Pope Benedict XVI announced the 26th World Youth Day to be held from August 15-21, 2011 in Madrid, Spain, with the theme of, “Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith” (Col. 2:7). This celebration has emphasized the universality of the Church with the presence of numerous different cultures, all living, loving and celebrating their Catholic faith.

To celebrate this very special event with our Holy Father and the youth of our world, the Diocese of Raleigh is making careful preparation for eighty youth and their chaperones to join me on pilgrimage to World Youth Day. Our journey will begin in Lourdes, France and continue on to Madrid, Spain, where we will participate in daily catechetical sessions, Mass, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Holy Hours, concerts and other faith events. This week will culminate with candle light benediction and Mass with Pope Benedict XVI.

I strongly encourage you to invite your youth and young adult groups to travel with me. If this is not possible, perhaps you could sponsor one delegate from your parish to experience this transformative event. Attached please find the World Youth Day brochure listing travel arrangements, frequently asked questions and the cost of the trip, as well as the registration form which is due to the Diocese by **Monday, January 11, 2010**. With this deadline rapidly approaching, it is imperative that we have a firm commitment in order to reserve our spaces. More detailed information will be available on the Diocesan Youth Ministry website as we get closer to the week-long celebration.

Thank you for all you do during the year to encourage our youth to live out their Catholic faith and assist them in the ways to build a firm foundation in Christ. I pray that many graces and blessing will be showered upon our diocese and in particular, our youth as we prepare and celebrate World Youth Day 2011.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge
Bishop of Raleigh