

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023

Lisbon, Portugal



St. Thomas Syro–Malabar Catholic Diocese of Chicago
INFORMATION PACKET

Mary arose and went with haste

Luke 1:39



DIOCESAN YOUTH APOSTOLATE
ST. THOMAS SYROMALABAR DIOCESE OF CHICAGO



What is the Syro–Malabar Youth Movement Combined Mission?

The **Syro–Malabar Youth Movement (SMYM) Combined Mission** is the joint initiative of the youth movements of all Syro–Malabar Eparchies outside of India. This includes the Eparchies of Chicago, Melbourne, Mississauga, Great Britain, and the Apostolic Visitation of Europe working together to bring the kingdom of God to those across the world.





World Youth Day (WYD) is the largest gathering of Catholic youth from around the world with the Pope. WYD officially began in 1985, with the occasion of the international youth year held in Rome, as an initiative of Pope St John Paul II, from his deep-rooted love for the young people. From here began WYD gatherings in countries around the world where young Catholics from all walks of life gather to celebrate their faith in Jesus Christ. The enthusiasm for WYD has been welcomed by Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

WYD is also a pilgrimage, an expression of the Universal Church, and an intense moment of evangelization for the youth of the world. Although the Catholic identity is evident, WYD opens its doors to everyone, no matter how close or far they are from the Church. In 2023, Lisbon will open its doors to welcome WYD for the very first time from **August 1st** (Tuesday) to **August 7th** (Monday) **2023**.

SYRO-MALABAR YOUTH FESTIVAL



For the first time in history, Syro–Malabar Catholics across all eparchies outside of India will gather at **Syro–Malabar Youth Festival (SyroFest) 2023** . Pilgrims will travel together from Lisbon, Portugal to Minde, Portugal to partake in a joyous event, followed by a pilgrim walk to Fátima. Together, we will participate in Holy Qurbana, the Way of the Cross, Holy Rosary, and a candle procession at the Chapel of Apparitions at the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fátima. The week will be packed with powerful spiritual experiences, celebrations with the local diocese, time with host families, and a cultural night featuring special guests and musical performances. The Syro–Malabar Youth Movement Combined Mission awaits you from **July 26th** (Wednesday) to **July 31st** (Monday) **2023!**

OPTIONAL POST-PILGRIMAGE

Following World Youth Day 2023 in Lisbon, pilgrims from the U.S.A will have the opportunity to travel through areas in Spain and France that hold deep relevance to the Catholic Church during the optional **Post-WYD Pilgrimage**. We will return back to the United States from Paris, France. From **August 7th** (Monday) to **August 14th** (Monday), we will travel to:

Santiago de Compostela



Avila



Madrid



Barcelona



Lourdes



Paris



Please note: A minimum of 40 participants are required for the Post-WYD Pilgrimage to take place.

TIMELINE



01

**Depart from
USA to Lisbon**

July 25, 2023

02

**Syro Youth
Festival**

July 26–31, 2023
Minde/Fátima

03

**World Youth
Day 2023**

August 1–7, 2023
Lisbon

04

**Pilgrimage
(Optional)**

August 7–14, 2023
Spain & France

**Depart from
Lisbon to USA**
(those not attending
the Pilgrimage)

August 7, 2023





PACKAGES OFFERED

Package 1

\$2800

Syro–Malabar Youth Fest + World Youth Day

July 25 – August 7, 2023

Package 2

\$3900

**Syro–Malabar Youth Fest + World Youth Day +
Pilgrimage**

July 25 – August 14, 2023

Both packages include:
Roundtrip flights, Accommodation, Food,
Registration, Ground Travel

WYD Testimonies



Kneeling in front of the Eucharist for adoration on Copacabana beach in Brazil along with 3.7 million Catholic youth and the Pope just hits different from your usual adorations. We hear about the “universal” Catholic Church in our Sunday school classes but going to World Youth Day allows you to experience the church in all its glory. Going to WYD changed my attitude towards my faith, and everyone’s experience is uniquely special.

Benjamin George



Attending World Youth Day 2013 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil was one of the best weeks of my life. As a young teenager, I got to make a unique pilgrimage with people from all over the world and truly see the universal Church come to life! I came home with new lifelong friendships and a genuine love for our faith. Please don't miss the chance to go!!

Amy Joseph



Crowds, Music, Dancing, Energy, Fellowship, Community, and Prayer is how I would quickly sum up my World Youth Day experience. I had a chance to embrace different cultures from around the world, to see how they celebrated their faith, and to partake in that journey. I encourage anyone who has this opportunity to attend WYD to go and see how “universal” the Catholic Church really is. PAPA FRANSICO!

Roshan Philip



WYD was an eye opening experience for me. Getting to celebrate my faith with youth from all over the globe was surreal! I am excited to go again to experience this in Portugal!

Jeffrey Thundathil

FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How old do I have to be to attend WYD?

Although WYD allows for individuals who are 16 and older, our Syro–Malabar package only allows for individuals who are at least 18 years old (at the start of WYD) to participate in WYD. Minors 14 and above may only join if their parents are also attending.

2. Where do I register for SyroFest+WYD?

Register for SyroFest and WYD with the Syro–Malabar diocese at <https://tinyurl.com/DYAWYD2023>. Please note that you have to register for both SyroFest and WYD, and not just a single event.

3. Will we be traveling together?

Yes! We are planning to have travel from the United States occur from 3 “hub cities”: New York, Chicago, and Dallas. Additional "hub cities" may be added if there are many pilgrims coming from a popular location. You will be responsible to get yourself to the closest hub city, and from there you will travel with other Syro–Malabar youth from our diocese together to Lisbon!

4. Can we accommodate someone who cannot attend certain days/arrive different time, etc.?

Unfortunately, no extra/special accommodations will be made for individuals who cannot attend certain days and timed events related to SyroFest and WYD. While the post–pilgrimage is optional, you must register for both SyroFest and World Youth Day.

5. When is the registration deadline?

Registration will close on January 8th. Pilgrims are encouraged to pay the full amount as soon as possible, but there will be an installment plan available to those who need time to make the payments. The first installment of \$750 is to be paid at the time of registration. The installment dates will be February 8th, March 8th, and April 8th of 2023.

6. What will accommodations look like?

If you are attending SyroFest and WYD, you will be asked to bring a sleeping bag as there will be various accommodations throughout Lisbon with host families and/or schools, gym halls, and tents that will be arranged each night. If you are attending the post pilgrimage after WYD, arrangements will be made for pilgrims to stay in hotels throughout the pilgrimage.

NEXT STEPS

- Register at <https://tinyurl.com/DYAWYD2023> by January 8th, 2023.
- Stay updated through our social media platforms.
- Spread the word and invite your friends to encounter Christ at WYD 2023!



<https://stthomasdya.org>
info@stthomasdya.org
[@syromalabarusa](https://www.instagram.com/syromalabarusa)



Fr. Kevin Mundackal
Director
Diocesan Youth Apostolate



Prayers and Blessings from Bishop Mar
Joy Alapatt and Bishop Emeritus Mar
Jacob Angadiath

See you soon!