

Days in the Diocese (DND)

Between July 26 and 31, 2023, the "Days in the Diocese" initiative will take place in our Archpriesthood. This is a gathering of young people. This meeting precedes the week of the World Youth Day (WYD) and has as its main objective to integrate young people from all over the world into the parish communities of the various dioceses of the country. During these days, the young pilgrims and their companions will get to know the region that welcomes them, as well as the local Church and its specificities, staying in public, parochial or family homes, as will happen in the week of the WYD in Lisbon.

Póvoa de Lanhoso promptly accepted this initiative, under the tutelage and coordination of the COA - Archpriesthood Organizing Committee, here represented by its coordinator, Father Rafael Poças. Over the past few weeks, this Committee has undertaken a variety of procedures with the Host Families, Pilgrims, Diocese, City Hall and various local entities (Volunteer Firefighters, GNR, Schools, Santa Casa da Misericórdia, Parish Councils, Associations), in order to guarantee the necessary conditions for accommodation, food, transportation, accompaniment, integration and safety of all the young people who will be in our Archpriesthood in these days.

This "pre-day" corresponding to the DND, will take place from north to south of Portugal, including the islands. Throughout this week, the young people from Poland, Brazil and Mozambique, a total of 162 pilgrims, will be welcomed, in most cases, in family homes and/or parish facilities. In addition to the moments of prayer, sharing and leisure, the young people will participate in initiatives organized by the WYD team. The highlights are the celebrations (central acts) that count with the presence of the Pope, such as the ceremony of welcome and opening, the Via Crucis, the vigil and, on the last day, the sending mass.

For those who still do not know, the World Youth Day (WYD) is a meeting of young people from all over the world with the Pope. Being simultaneously a pilgrimage, a feast of youth, an expression of the universal Church and a strong moment of evangelization of the youth world. It presents itself as an invitation to a generation determined to build a more just and supportive world. With a clearly Catholic identity, it is open to all, whether they are closer or further away from the Church.

It happens every year at the diocesan level, around Palm Sunday and from 2021 on Christ the King Sunday. Every two, three or four years it occurs as an international meeting, in a city chosen by the Pope, always with his presence. It brings together thousands of young people to celebrate faith and belonging to the Church.