

World Youth Day 2002

Father Francis Kohn, head of the Pontifical Council for the Laity's Youth Section, also visited Canada from 22 July to 9 August 2001 for a series of meetings held by the Canadian Committee and by various diocesan commissions (Montreal, Quebec, New Brunswick)

Programme

The programme of the seventeenth World Youth Day is inspired by what has by now become the traditional format of the event, which will officially begin on Tuesday, 23 July 2002, with the *Inaugural Holy Mass* celebrated in Exhibition Place and officiated by Cardinal Aloysius Ambrozic, archbishop of Toronto.

Catechesis, given in various languages by bishops from all over the world, will take place in many churches and halls in Toronto on the mornings of 24, 25 and 26 July. An area on the lake-shore, called Duc in Altum Park, will be specially dedicated to the sacrament of Reconciliation during the afternoons, though it will of course be possible to take the sacrament in the mornings too during the catechesis and in the many churches in the city.

The activities of the *Youth Festival* will be held on the afternoons and evenings of the same days, 24, 25 and 26 July. The festival programme will comprise various events that will enable the artistic, religious and spiritual experiences of the life and faith of youth from all over the world to be shared.

The *Via Crucis* will be celebrated in various areas of Toronto on the afternoon of Friday, 26 July. The main procession will start out from City Hall and traverse the centre of town.

The culmination of World Youth Day will be the *Vigil and final Eucharistic Celebration* presided over by the Holy Father in

Downsview Park on the evening of 27 July and the morning of Sunday 28 July.

What has by now become a traditional feature of World Youth Day is also the *offer of hospitality by the dioceses of the host country* in the days immediately preceding the celebration. The Canadian dioceses (with the exclusion of Toronto) invite all the groups concerned to take advantage of this opportunity from 18 to 21 July 2001: the young visitors will be given free accommodation in homes, in parishes and in local communities. Activities of various kinds are being organized on their behalf: prayers, pilgrimages, volunteer service, tourist visits, festivities. Applications by the groups concerned should be made directly to the Canadian organizing Committee.

Participation

Enrolment in World Youth Day 2002 should be made at the latest by 15 May 2002 and be sent to the Pontifical Council for the Laity or, in the case of groups from Canada and the USA, directly to the Canadian Committee. Enrolment forms, as well as other information, may be requested from the Youth Section at the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The enrolment form is also available *online* on the website: www.wyd2002.org.

As is now the custom, at the time of enrolment each participant will also be asked to donate 10 dollars (or the equivalent in other currency) to the traditional Solidarity Fund, aimed at financing the participation of youth from countries or areas in economic difficulties. This small "solidarity contribution" – not to be confused with the other payments requested by the Canadian Committee to cover the costs of participation in the World Day – has in past years permitted a truly "global" dimension to be