



Pilgrim Year of Preparation

July 2015

FEATURED DATES

1 – Feast of Blessed Junipero Serra

Set to be canonized in September 2015 by the Holy Father in Washington, DC; according to Pope Francis, he "was one of the founding fathers of the United States, a saintly example of the Church's universality and special patron of the Hispanic people of the country."

4 – American Independence Day

On this day in 1776, the United States was born when the 2nd Continental Congress approves the Declaration of Independence. Pray in thanksgiving for freedom and for our heritage.

Feast of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati

Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati is one of the primary patrons of young adults and many of the international World Youth Day gatherings; in a special way, Pier Giorgio has been designated by the USCCB as a patron for all WYD pilgrims from the United States. Pier Giorgio was adventurous, committed to working for the poor, devoted to the Eucharist, and loyal to friends and family. Named by Pope John Paul II "The Man of the Eight Beatitudes," his body will travel to Krakow for WYD 2016.

6 – Feast of St. Maria Goretti

Patroness of young women and one of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

7 – Krakow Kickoff Celebration

On this day, at 2pm ET at the Saint John Paul II National Shrine in Washington, DC, the USCCB will inaugurate the Pilgrim Year of Preparation.

Feast of Blessed Peter To Rot

One of the patrons of WYD Sydney (2008)

13 – Feast of St. Teresa of the Andes

One of the patrons of WYD Rio (2013)

14 – Feast of St. Kateri Tekakwitha

Patroness of WYDUSA and Native Americans, and a young adult from North America who was persecuted for her Catholic beliefs; one of the patrons of WYD Toronto (2002)

15-20 – Anniversary of WYD Sydney (2008)

You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses. (Acts 1:8)

16 – Feast of Our Lady of Aparecida

Patroness of Brazil and WYD Rio (2013)

17 – Feast of St. Hedwig (Jadwiga) of Poland

Fourteenth century Polish queen, patroness of Poland, of queens, and of a united Europe.

20 – Anniversary of Apollo 11 Moon Landing

On this day in 1969, we landed on the moon. Pray for all those who work in the sciences.

23-28 – Anniversary of WYD Toronto (2002)

You are the salt of the earth. You are the light of the world. (Matt. 5:13-14)

23-28 – Anniversary of WYD Rio (2013)

Go make disciples of all nations. (Matt. 28:19)

25 – Feast of St. James the Apostle

St. James the Apostle walked with Jesus in the New Testament, and journeyed with Christ up Mount Tabor to witness the Transfiguration with his brother John and Simon Peter. Through the centuries, St. James continues to walk with those who make pilgrimage, especially along the Camino de Santiago in Spain. He is the patron of all pilgrim travelers, including those journeying to World Youth Day 2016. Patron saint of WYD Santiago de Compostela (1989).

26-31 – Krakow One-Year Pre-Anniversary

One year from the events of World Youth Day 2016 in Krakow. During this week, please pray for the international planning committee for WYD Krakow. Pray for the bishops, priests and religious, lay leaders, and all other pilgrims headed to Poland, as well as all those who will be celebrating stateside and digitally.

31 – Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola

Founder the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and one of the patrons of WYD Madrid (2011).