

The Catholic Diocese of the **AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE**

INVITES YOU TO WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

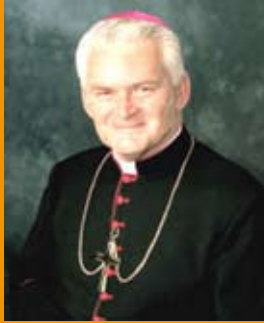


Sydney Australia



www.military.catholic.org.au/wyd2008





**INVITATION LETTER
FROM BISHOP MAX DAVIS**

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

A great many young Catholics from all corners of the world are expected to descend upon the city of Sydney to proclaim and celebrate their faith at World Youth Day 2008.

In response to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI's announcement in Cologne on 21 August 2005 that Sydney will host the next World Youth Day, the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force (or the Military Ordinariate of Australia) is excited to be involved in welcoming and hosting our Catholic military sisters and brothers from around the world. Already, our diocese is represented on one of the World Youth Day 08 committees, and we are working alongside the Archdiocese of Sydney to give our fellow military pilgrims the best possible experience during their time in Australia – both spiritually and culturally.

July 2008 marks an exciting time for the Catholic Church in Australia as the world will gather in the peace and unity of the Holy Spirit. This will be symbolic due to the troubled world we live in. Many of us have colleagues and friends who are currently deployed in harm's way, serving their country, and the unity and friendship of World Youth Day will be an excellent opportunity to gather as an international community to pray for and promote peace. This is particularly reflected in the Pentecostal theme of World Youth Day 2008, **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses"** (Acts 1:8). Through the Holy Spirit, the love and peace which our Lord Jesus Christ left us upon His ascension into Heaven gives us all hope in becoming God's agents for peace, freedom and security. This warm flame of the Holy Spirit burns inside each of us.

I look forward in that hope to a gathering of many Catholic military members in Australia in July 2008. We will be honoured to celebrate and be witnesses to the power of the Holy Spirit with you all. As highlighted in this booklet, our Diocese's plans for the international military community include days of spiritual and cultural exchange prior to the World Youth Day week in Canberra, our nation's capital. Then, we intend to pilgrimage to Sydney to celebrate the love of the risen Christ with the Holy Father and the rest of the world.

We give thanks to the Lord for this opportunity to welcome the world into our hearts, and we place our efforts always under the care of Mary, Help of Christians, our Patroness.

I look forward to seeing you all in Australia in 2008.

Yours in Christ,

+ **Max L Davis**

Catholic Bishop of the Australian Defence Force

DAYS IN THE DEFENCE DIOCESE ★★

At this stage, our intention is to unite the military pilgrims of the world to Canberra, the capital city of Australia, for days of spiritual and cultural exchange prior to the World Youth Day festivities in Sydney. Canberra is the ideal place to begin the World Youth Day journey with other military pilgrims who share the same faith.

Although we are still waiting on official approval, the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force is proposing to organise spiritual activities for your group. This may include: **Daily Mass, Catechesis, Eucharistic Adoration, Prayer and reflection, Reconciliation, The Way of the Cross and Praise and Worship events.**



Pilgrims may also have the opportunity to experience the unique Australian culture through multi-lingual tours around significant sights of Canberra that include: **Federal Parliament House, Old Parliament House, the Australian War Memorial the Royal Australian Mint, Lake Burley Griffin and the National Museum.**

We will also propose that our international military brothers and sisters visit the Royal Military College of Australia and the Australian Defence Force Academy. Here you will have insight into the history and traditions associated with the Australian Defence Force.



FOCAL POINT: PRAYER FOR PEACE ★★★



Australian War Memorial

In the words of the Second Vatican Council:

‘All those who enter the military in service to their country should look upon themselves as guardians of the security and freedom of their fellow countrymen, and, in carrying out this duty properly, they too contribute to the establishment of peace’.

With this in mind, we propose to gather all the young military pilgrims of the world to pray for Peace on Earth. This unity of military personnel will be a great symbol of hope for the world.

Marian Devotion

On Sunday, 13 July 2008, our intention is for military pilgrims to travel from Canberra to Sydney for World Youth Day. Along the way, we plan to celebrate Mass at the Shrine of the Virgin Mary at Penrose Park. As Mary, Help of Christians, is the patroness of the military, this will be an excellent opportunity for us to ask our Mother to intercede in our prayers to her Son, Jesus.



WORLD YOUTH DAY WEEK ★★

The official World Youth Day (WYD) festivities begin on the 15 July 2008.

Upon arrival in Sydney, all the Australian and international military pilgrims will be guests of the Australian Defence Force. The Australian Defence Force will provide accommodation close to the city, meals, transport and medical support. Pilgrims will join with over half a million fellow Catholics in celebrating Our Lord's love and proclaiming the Holy Spirit at World Youth Day Sydney 2008.



St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

During WYD week, pilgrims are encouraged to attend events and activities featured on the official WYD program. These include: **Daily Catechesis and Mass with other WYD pilgrims that speak your language; WYD programmed festivities (such as seminars and concerts); The Way of the Cross-through the streets of Sydney; Welcome the Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI to Sydney on Thursday; Pilgrims walk to Vigil and sleep-out; and Sunday Mass celebrated by the Holy Father.**



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ★★ ★



On behalf of **Bishop Max Davis** and the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force, our WYD08 point of contact is:

Lieutenant Ivan Yau

Phone: **+61 2 9377 2542**

Email: **ivan.yau@defence.gov.au**

For further enquires about the Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force's WYD plan or to express your group's interest, please feel free to contact Ivan Yau.

Visit our website **www.military.catholic.org.au/wyd2008**

We look forward to seeing you in 2008!



Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force



Official Australian WYD08 Tour Operator

The Catholic Diocese of the Australian Defence Force is committed to working in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Sydney and Harvest Youth Tours in providing the best possible experience for our WYD visitors.

“You will receive **power**
when the **Holy Spirit** has
come upon you; and you will
be my **witnesses**”

(Acts 1:8)