

World Youth Day 2008

By Barb Lishko

World Youth Day for me was an opportunity to be a part of the universal Catholic Church. The motto of every Pilgrim is: "Whatever can go wrong...will go wrong." Having that as my mantra when I jumped on the plane to Sydney made anything possible to bear. There is always the great Biblical passage too..."With God, all things are possible." I was good to go either way.

One of my more memorable moments was when we headed to the Opening Mass at Barangaroo. We found a river of Pilgrim's flowing in that direction so we slide on in and made our way to the venue. Everyone sang, and there was a thunderous joyful noise that emerged into the city of Sydney. We were from 177 different nations, yet we were one...one people of God. We had this thread in common and it linked us together on a deep and profound level.

We endured sleeping on the ground for 16 days, eating canned tuna with corn, meat pies and being pretty cold more days than not. We slept out all night at Randwick Raceway for the vigil and closing Mass on the hard lego path while I freezing the whole time. If I could do it all over again I would do so willingly. World Youth Day is an experience I would recommend to anyone. Having the opportunity to be with so many different people of a shared faith and witnessing to the whole world about the love of God was an honor and a privilege.

World Youth Day 2011 is in Madrid, Spain. It is my hope to share that experience with more young adults and teens from St Andrew's. As information is available we will begin promoting it. Good news is we won't freeze this time!