

This trip was amazing, In the beginning I kept fighting the faith as well as my mom, I had stepped away from the Catholic Church for a while. I was not happy with what I thought was wrong with the church. I stayed to myself as well as the group for the first week. I would sing now and then or clap to the music but that was all.

Finally I went to my grandparents for advice. My grandma and grandpa told me to open up, and let Jesus come to me and have me do his works. I really took it to heart. It meant so much to me that my family was praying for me to find my way back. I decided to take a chance and open up. Once I did and since that day I opened up I was so much more happy, and now people wanted to hang around me. I was no longer the girl without a smile, or her arms crossed.

World Youth Day was such a touching experience for me it was the push that I needed to get back on control with my life. I was done with skipping mass, and not participating. I have learned so much about other cultures and met so many amazing people, that I know I want to stay in touch with them. Everyone that was there was so in touch with there faith that you couldn't help but to also be in touch with your own.

The pope said such amazing things, and he also said an amazing Mass. I felt like I was there when they did the Stations of the Cross, you could tell how much hard work they put into everything they did. I am so happy that I got to have this experience. I can't wait until the next one. All I know is next time I want a big group.

If I had to take just one thing from being there, it would have to be that don't be afraid to step out of your box because when you do so many miracles happen, and don't be afraid to open your heart to God, he is always going to be there for you, he just waiting for you to let him in.

God Bless,
Melissa Lishko