



Praça S. João Bosco, 34  
1399-007 Lisboa  
[wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt](mailto:wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt)



## Convocation to the Salesian Youth Movement for World Youth Day 2023

Dear Salesian Youth Ministry delegates.

Dear SYM groups and the Salesian Family.

The participation of the Salesian Youth Movement in the World Youth Day Lisbon 2023 is of special importance and significance. On one hand, together with the whole universal Church, participating in the biggest youth and ecclesial event in the world is, in itself, a reason for jubilation and grace; on the other hand, in a post-pandemic context, in which many family relationships, friendships and closeness have been reduced, it is of paramount importance to re-establish encounters, embraces and communion.

As young people who were nourished by the roots of Salesian youth spirituality, from the northern and southern hemispheres, from east and west, from Europe, America, Africa, Asia and Oceania, from the countless countries in which the Salesian charism is present, we want to say 'yes' to the invitation of Pope Francis and be present at the XXXIII World Youth Day in Lisbon, from 1 to 6 of August 2023. With Mary, we will make this journey, as a young Church, offering the charismatic richness of Salesian youth spirituality.

The presence of young people with a Salesian charism shows that those who walk in the footsteps of Don Bosco make their voice heard, take an active part in society, and are engaged in ecclesial commitments. The message of the SYM at WYD Panama refers to this: "We are often told that we are the fruit of society, the future of the Church. And we also know we are already part of the Church and society today. We must speak out and make ourselves heard if we want our voices to be truly heard; but we need solid instruction so that our voices do not simply follow trends of the moment. It is time to come together in solidarity and ensure the voice of young people is heard in the Church and society. We can be the Church that walks "with" young people and not just "for" young people. How rewarding it is when young people are heard, listened to,



Praça S. João Bosco, 34  
1399-007 Lisboa  
[wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt](mailto:wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt)



loved and accompanied! May the SYM be a home, a family, a place in which the voice of the Spirit and the voice of young people is heard."

WYD is not an isolated event but has a before and after. Everyone who participates in a WYD takes part in a preparatory journey with other young people, and the experience continues afterwards, always in communion. The value lies precisely in this. Therefore, its pastoral value is fundamental: to strengthen the journey of faith. This, the young person does by sharing the journey with many others who are living the same wonderful experience.

The organization WYD DON BOSCO 23 (organization and branding of SYM in WYD 2023) is part and parcel of the preparation and event of WYD 2023 and offers in this encounter of the Church its charismatic dimension, its Salesian youth spirituality to thousands of young people from all over the world, seeking to celebrate the joy of being Church and being a Salesian Youth Movement. It also seeks to integrate the WYD 2023, accompanying all the dynamism and moments foreseen, as well as valuing, on a particular day, all its associative and youth dimension, through the "SYM Day". Finally, in preparation for the event, the organization WYD DON BOSCO 23 is committed to taking initiatives that strengthen local, national and international itineraries, as well as offering moments and actions that help young people in their discernment and encounter with Jesus Christ.

**WYD DON BOSCO 23 and the SYM Portugal invite all the young people of the World SYM and other youth groups of the Salesian Family to participate in World Youth Day 2023.** These groups will be welcomed and accompanied by the young people of the SYM Portugal and accommodated in Salesian houses and families in the Lisbon area. In order for this preparation to take place in the best way possible, it is necessary to foresee the number of participants that each province/country will register for WYD and, in this way, welcome everyone, providing the best experience for each participant.

We must begin right now to sow in our young people the desire to participate in this great event for the youth of the Church: presenting the World Youth Day 2023 inviting other young people to give a testimony of their participation, holding preparatory meetings, exploring the convocation message of Pope Francis, calling each and every one of the different environments of the Salesian presences.



Praça S. João Bosco, 34  
1399-007 Lisboa  
[wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt](mailto:wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt)



We also inform you that, for this journey, some materials are available:

1. Official website WYD DON BOSCO 23 (available in PT, EN, ES, FR, IT, PL): [Início - WYD DON BOSCO 23](#) Official website WYD Lisbon 2023 (available in PT, EN, ES): [JMJ Lisboa 2023](#)
2. *Rise Up* Catechetical Itinerary (available in PT, EN, ES): [JMJ Lisboa 2023](#)
3. Thematic meetings WYD DON BOSCO 23 for youth groups: (available soon)
4. Graphic materials WYD DON BOSCO 23: [Marca - WYD DON BOSCO 23](#)
5. Graphic materials WYD Lisbon 2023: [JMJ Lisboa 2023](#)

The costs of participation in an event of this magnitude are always significant, so we will do everything possible to make the participation of all groups possible. We recommend that the organisation of each group, fundraising and participation plan start to be prepared now. Following, there is some information on this subject, not binding and of a base price, as the organisation is awaiting the official information:

1. **Official WYD Lisbon 2023 pack, without accommodation** (registration for all the young people of the SYM) - *mandatory*

*Includes:* Pilgrim kit, transportation, food, insurance, WYD events (1 – 6 August).

*Price:* estimated 250€ (as in previous editions, price adjustment by country groups is expected).

1. **WYD DON BOSCO 23 pack** - *mandatory*

*Includes:* accommodation in a Salesian house (1 – 6 August 2023), Salesian accompaniment, entry to SYM Day (2 August 2023) and SYM kit.

*Price:* 50€

1. **Fátima pack** (7 – 8 August 2023) - *optional*

*Includes:* accommodation at a Salesian house from 6 – 7 August, breakfast on August 7, bus transportation (Lisbon-Fatima-Lisbon), lunch on August 7, activities and



Praça S. João Bosco, 34  
1399-007 Lisboa  
[wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt](mailto:wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt)



accompaniment in Fatima, dinner on August 7, accommodation at a Salesian house from 7 to 8 August 2023 and breakfast on the August 8.

*Price:* 40€ (with the possibility of price reduction for those who do not stay overnight/leave early)

We remind you that the package must be purchased by the group and not individually. Travel to Lisbon can be done by bus, plane, or individual transport (not recommended).

**Please send us an estimate of the number of participants, indicating also the expected date of arrival and departure from Lisbon, as well as the means of transport used, by 30 June 2022, to the email [wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt](mailto:wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt).**

**Participation in the Days in Dioceses (DND) / pre-WYD, which will take place between 26 and 31 July 2023, in 17 dioceses in continental Portugal and the islands, at an estimated cost of €50, is another opportunity for groups. To register, they should contact us directly at [wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt](mailto:wyddonbosco23@staff.salesianos.pt), indicating the number of participants expected. The organisation WYD DON BOSCO 23 will make contact with the Portuguese dioceses and with you, in order to find a good ecclesial experience the participants. **Please send us information about your intention to participate by 30 June 2022, to allow timely contact with the Portuguese dioceses.****

To paraphrase Pope Francis, we will see you in August 2023, in Lisbon, at this event "young, fresh, alive, powerful and creative. May each of us come out better than we arrived".

With our regards, from Portugal,

Coordination WYD DON BOSCO 23

João Xavier Fialho