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**May 25, 2023**  
**Press release**

### **SYM Day: news about the youth party**

**Lisbon, Portugal** - WYD DON BOSCO 23, the organization responsible for the participation of the Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) in World Youth Day Lisbon 2023, seeks to cherish its entire associative and youth dimension on a particular day, SYM DAY.

Celebrated on the 2nd of August, with the presence of the Rector Major of the Salesians, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime and sister Chiara Cazzuola, Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, who will participate for the first time as Mother General on this day, in which young people will naturally be the protagonists.

About 7,000 young people are expected, as well as 500 volunteers, staff, animators, non-clergy personnel of the Salesian family, Salesian men and women.

Rita Esteves, the young person in charge of the SYM Day team, says that this is “a big celebration, which brings together the various Salesian presences in the world, in the same space”. For Sister Diana Arrobas (FMA), also responsible for the preparation of this day, the important thing is that D. Bosco is “the focus”.

This day will be one of the highlights of the participation of SYM in WYD Lisbon 2023 and will be divided into three great moments:

#### **Forum**

This is a time of meeting with the Rector Major of the Salesians and with the Mother General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and other leaders of Salesian family groups. During this meeting, which will take place in the morning at the Salesians of Lisbon, the young representatives of the various countries will be invited to reflect and debate the themes brought up by Pope Francis in the context of this WYD 2023, integrated into the context of Salesian youth spirituality.

There will also be a time for questions for both the Rector major and mother General.

At the end of this meeting, a message will be prepared and addressed to the young people of the SYM from all over the world.

This space of youth protagonism will end with the celebration of the Eucharist, which can be followed live.

#### **SYM Festival**

With the theme "COME, LIVE, PROCLAIM", this great youth party will take place in the Salesians of Estoril, starting at 15: 00, and will bring together young people from the SYM from various countries.



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Intended also for all the members of the Salesian family who are present on WYD, this special moment will be characterized by Joy and fraternity, by music and animation, in a style typical of festive oratory.

The team that is preparing this festive moment is counting on the collaboration of about 500 volunteers who will be engaged in the preparation of dozens of games. There will also be several tents where different countries can present/Game of their country, as well as a stage where various moments will be prepared by the participating countries.

Also, during the afternoon there will be spiritual accompaniment and time for confessions.

At 17: 00 The Recitation of the Rosary for vocations will take place.

Our "common home " will not be forgotten either, as Pope Francis has asked us. Thus, it has been arranged to plant trees (one for each participating nationality) in the school forest.

### **Vigil**

The night vigil, which will take place between 21: 00 and 22: 30, will be a moment of prayer and Eucharistic adoration, celebrating in an attitude of gratitude the richness of Don Bosco's charism, strengthening young people as witnesses of Jesus. The vigil will feature a charismatic theme centred on the personalities of Mary and Jesus Christ.

The traditional Good Night, done by the Rector Major of the Salesians and the Mother General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, will close this special day with a golden key.

In the opinion of Fr. Diogo Almeida (SDB), and also a member of the team that is preparing the SYM Day, young people can expect "a great day of celebration".

### **About SYM**

The Salesian Youth Movement is a communion movement of various youth groups and associations integrated into the Youth Ministry of the Salesians. United by the educational and evangelizing proposal inspired by the spirit and style of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Domingas Mazzarello.

### **About WYD DON BOSCO 23**

WYD DON BOSCO 23 is the name of the Salesian Youth Movement organization responsible for the summoning and participation of young people from various Salesian environments around the world in WYD Lisbon 2023, living in accordance with the charism of Don Bosco. WYD DON BOSCO 23 wants to motivate young people to follow this path as a pilgrimage, which strengthens their faith and challenges others who are further away to get to know the Living Christ.

WYD DON BOSCO 23 arose from the combination of the acronym, in English, which refers to World Youth Day, as well as the word "with"; Don Bosco, as an aggregator of the Salesian family; and the date of the meeting.



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### **About WYD Lisbon 2023**

The officialization of the visit of Pope Francis, in August, to Portugal, on the occasion of WYD Lisbon 2023, recently arrived by the Holy See. His Holiness will arrive in Lisbon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August and return to Rome on the 6th. On the 5th, and by The Express will of Pope Francis, a trip to Fatima is planned.

The four-day visit of Pope Francis to Portugal is the longest stay ever made by a Supreme Pontiff to our country. This will be his second visit to Portugal.

**For more information:**  
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