



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

June 15, 2022

Dear Friends in Christ:

Welcome to the Diocesan preparations for World Youth Day, Lisbon 2023! This is a time of excitement and celebration for the Church! After a long and strenuous time of isolation we can once more look forward to being together as one universal family, young adults from all around the world, to celebrate “youth” and “faith”! World Youth Day is a beautiful opportunity to reinvigorate youth and young adult ministries not only in the Diocese of Hamilton, but also throughout the global Church.

The theme for this World Youth Day is, “*Mary arose and went with haste*” (Lk 1:39). Mary is a beautiful witness of the Christian journey. She teaches us how to say yes, without fear or hesitation, to God’s call in our lives. I pray that our young people will embrace this special opportunity to grow in relationship with our Blessed Mother and to learn from her example of humility and strength.

In his homily for Pentecost Sunday, Pope Francis reminded us that the Holy Spirit rejuvenates the Church, he makes the Church grow young (June 5, 2022). I believe this to be true. Certainly, the Holy Spirit is moving and directing our Pastoral Offices to provide for a wide variety of opportunities to participate in this celebration of World Youth Day with enthusiasm. I encourage all youth and young adults to prayerfully consider taking part in our Diocesan events for World Youth Day 2023. Youth festivals remind us that we are not alone in our journey of faith – there are young men and women all around the globe who have been chosen and sent by the Lord to be heralds of the Good News; beacons of hope. I know the young people of the Diocese of Hamilton, too, have this calling in their hearts. I am proud to support their representation of our “great and glorious” Diocese in these celebrations.

As you prepare to participate in World Youth Day 2023, know of my prayers for you. Go forward, pilgrims! Proclaim the Gospel with your life!

Sincerely in Christ and the Mary Immaculate,

+ Douglas Crosby, OMI

(Most Rev.) Douglas Crosby, OMI
Bishop of Hamilton

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