



## DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

*June 15, 2026*

**Dear Young People of the Diocese of Hamilton,**

World Youth Day is truly a gift from God.

Over the years, I have witnessed how this pilgrimage opens hearts, strengthens faith, creates lasting friendships, and reminds young people that they are deeply loved by Christ and by His Church. It reveals a beautiful and powerful message: the Church is alive in the joy, generosity, faith, and courage of her young people.

As your Bishop, I am filled with gratitude and excitement knowing that many of you are already preparing to journey to Seoul, South Korea, for World Youth Day 2027.

As a son of Polish heritage, I carry a special love for the vision of Saint John Paul II, who founded World Youth Day and believed deeply in young people. He saw in them not simply the future of the Church, but a vibrant presence within the Church today. I share that conviction wholeheartedly. You are a treasure of the Church. Your energy, gifts, compassion, and search for meaning and truth are signs of God at work in our world.

I have had the blessing of participating in World Youth Day both as a priest and as a bishop, and its impact is profound. It renews faith, opens hearts to Jesus Christ, and reminds us that we belong to the universal Church gathered from every nation and culture around Him.

In Seoul, under the inspiring theme chosen by Pope Francis, “Take courage! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33), I pray that each young person from our Diocese will encounter Jesus in a deeper and more personal way. The world today can often feel uncertain and overwhelming, especially for young people facing many pressures and questions about the future. Yet Christ speaks directly into those fears with words of hope and courage. He reminds us that we are never alone and that His love is stronger than fear and division.

World Youth Day is a pilgrimage of faith—an opportunity to discover the beauty of the Church, the richness of different cultures, and the joy of walking together as disciples of Jesus. It is a moment to recognize the gifts God has placed within you and to hear more clearly His call in your life. It is also an invitation to return home renewed in faith and ready to share the hope of Christ with others.

The Church needs your witness, and our world needs your hope. Your generation has a remarkable capacity to build bridges, care for others, seek justice, and bring compassion into places marked by loneliness and division. Never underestimate the difference your faith can make.

I am especially grateful to the priests, chaplains, youth ministers, teachers, parents, and volunteers who accompany and support our young people in faith. Thank you for helping create opportunities where they can encounter Christ and grow in the life of the Church.

The patron saints of World Youth Day Seoul 2027—Saint John Paul II, Saint Andrew Kim Taegon, Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini, Saint Josephine Bakhita, and Saint Carlo Acutis—remind us that holiness is possible in every culture, every age, and every circumstance of life.

Dear young people, I pray that this pilgrimage will strengthen your faith, deepen your love for the Church, and inspire you to become joyful missionary disciples and pilgrims of hope in our Diocese and beyond. In the months leading up to World Youth Day, I look forward to meeting many of you and sharing in your spiritual preparation as you journey toward this wonderful experience of faith.

May Mary, Mother of the Church, walk with you always and lead you ever closer to her son, Jesus.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

† *Joseph Dabrowski*, CSMA

Most Reverend Joseph Dabrowski, CSMA  
Bishop of Hamilton

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