

Tridentine Community News

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Tridentine Travelogue: Juventutem 2011

Guest Report by Paul Schultz

In mid-August, I had the privilege – for the first time in my life – of assisting at the Traditional Latin Mass for fourteen consecutive days. From a beautiful monastery chapel in a near-alpine region of Spain’s Basque region, to glorious parishes in Bilbao and Madrid (with one ‘70s’ chapel thrown in, due to a scheduling concern), I worshipped God according to the TLM and various traditional devotions together with hundreds of other World Youth Day (“WYD”) pilgrims attached to the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.

I received these graces thanks to the *Juventutem*: the international, traditionalist young adult pilgrimage to WYD. The brainchild of two young Frenchmen and Fr. Armand de Malleray, FSSP, who serves as its international chaplain, *Juventutem* was originally organized in 2004. It sent a thousand pilgrims to WYD 2005 (Wigratzbad/Cologne) and nearly two hundred pilgrims to WYD 2008 (Melbourne/Sydney), and has organized a dozen Pontifical Masses along the way.

In accordance with recent WYD practice, *Juventutem* 2011 featured both a “Days in the Diocese” pilgrimage (9-15 August) to the Diocese of Bilbao, as well as the principal WYD pilgrimage to join Pope Benedict XVI in Madrid (16-21 August) for a week of catechesis and formation.

Nearly two hundred pilgrims, including about fifty English-speaking pilgrims, were able to attend the first week within the Diocese of Bilbao. Housed in the guest rooms of the Carmelite Monastery near the town of Amorebieta-Extano, or on the gym floors of the sport center across the street, we pilgrims prayed, ate, drank, smoked, and sang together, coming to know each other along the way. Some friendships developed even despite significant language barriers. Each day that week included Mass, a significant cultural activity (once, a challenging climb to an ocean-side shrine followed by a lengthy walk to a beach; once, a trip to a museum followed by Pontifical Vespers with Bishop Iceta, the Ordinary of Bilbao and the host of WYD pilgrim groups from across the world) and two significant catecheses. Our group was assisted by at least 16 clerics, including four who catechized the English-speaking contingent of *Juventutem*, Fr. de Malleray (presently stationed in Reading, England) and three FSSP seminarians: Denton’s Abbé Dominic Savoie of Texas (born in Flint, MI), who arrived fresh from completing the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, and Wigratzbad’s Abbé James Mawdsley of England and Abbé Xavier Proust of France.

After the relative calm of Bilbao, we traveled to Madrid and were joined by an additional 600 *Juventutem* pilgrims (almost all French-speaking) amidst the joyful chaos of a city all but overrun by 1M+ young, happy Catholics. *Juventutem* 2011 was principally

organized by French young adults, and they successfully recruited French bishops to catechize our French pilgrims and to pontificate at each of our three principal Masses in Madrid.

In many American parishes, the idea of World Youth Day is directed almost exclusively towards members of the parish’s “youth group.” In the rest of the world, it is not so. While a slight majority of pilgrims may have had less than 21 years of age, European and Latin American countries sent significant numbers of pilgrims from the upper end of the WYD age range (the



Vatican website’s page for WYD 2008 encouraged pilgrims from 16-35 to attend). While youth of all ages are invited, the challenges and privations of the journey certainly make the trip a pilgrimage and not a walk in the park. This 29-year-old pilgrim certainly found his self-characterization as a “youth” challenged after a week of limited sleep and a punishing trip through the afternoon heat to the Madrid airfield where the final mass liturgies of the week occurred. What doesn’t kill you makes you stronger. And a challenge is

not a defeat, when your fellow pilgrims take up your pack and get you the water that you need to survive.

At the conclusion of Sunday’s Mass, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the next international gathering for World Youth Day would be held in 2013 in Brazil, the home of Campos and the [Tridentine] Personal Apostolic Administration of Saint John Mary Vianney, among other things. Having received the Pope’s blessing, your correspondent and many other *Juventutem* pilgrims departed Madrid, confirmed in the faith and already committed to planning the next *Juventutem* – that it might be an even greater witness concerning the Church’s traditional liturgy to the many young Catholics who will gather in Rio de Janeiro in less than two years’ time.

Should you like a get a fuller taste: In addition to the videos already available on YouTube, many audio recordings of *Juventutem* 2011 Masses were made and are or will be available at www.a2latinmass.org/juventutem. In addition, links to thousands of pictures will be made available in the near future, as will material from the Twitter feed which this correspondent contemporaneously posted throughout WYD activities.

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Mon. 09/12 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Most Holy Name of Mary)

Tue. 09/13 7:00 PM: Low Mass at *Assumption-Windsor* (Feria [Celebrant may choose a Votive Mass])

Wed. 09/14 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Exaltation of the Holy Cross) [Fourth Anniversary of *Summorum Pontificum*]

Thu. 09/15 7:00 PM: High Mass at *St. Josaphat* (Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Sun. 09/18 Noon: High Mass at *St. Albertus* (14th Sunday)

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