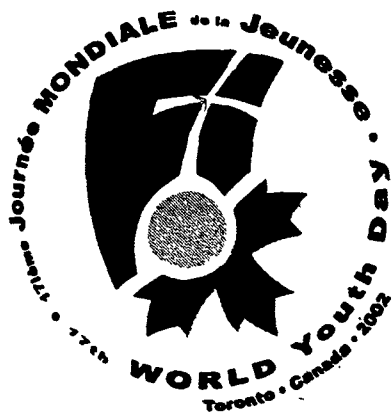


on the MOVE



A group of teens and adults from St. Bridget's in Rochester will attend World Youth Day along with their pastor, Father Anthony Mugavero (first row, right of center).



STORY BY MIKE LATONA
PHOTO BY JAMES STEIN

Counting down to World Youth Day

Abraham Maher was 5 years old when his brother Jeremiah, now 24, attended World Youth Day in Denver. "He said how he came so close to touching the pope," Abraham recalled.

Now Abraham is 14, and it's his turn to get a taste of World Youth Day. The event will take place in Toronto July 18-28, and Abraham will be among a contingent of as many as 1,000 people from the Rochester Diocese planning to participate in an overnight vigil July 27-28.

Joining Abraham will be three other family members: his mother, Mary; brother Timothy, 22; and sister Hannah, 19. They are among a group of more than 30 World Youth Day pilgrims representing St. Bridget's Parish in Rochester. St. Bridget's will bring a mix of teens, young adults and adult chaperons.

"We were thinking of bringing souvenirs and giving them to people we meet — giving them buttons saying 'St. Bridget's Parish,'" Abraham said.

Father Anthony Mugavero, St. Bridget's pastor, also plans to be on hand in Toronto. He took a parish group to Denver when World Youth Day last took place in North America, nine years ago.

"I'll tell you, that makes a lasting impression. I still remember our young people running around in Mile High Stadium, trying to catch up with the Popemobile. There's a kind of magnetism that just takes over," Father Mugavero said.

Those memories, he said, spurred him to play up the upcoming World Youth Day. "We said, 'Let's really go after this.' Our parish has a lot of new Catholics and there aren't that many opportunities to find out about the larger church," Father Mugavero said.

"I think it will be cool to see different people from different parts of the world," Abraham remarked. "I've got friends going from different parishes but I doubt I'll see them because it's such a big crowd."

Yet he is also looking forward to meeting Catholics from other parts of the world. "It will be cool if they've got different opinions on the church or

something. I think it would be cool to talk to them and see what they think," he said.

St. Bridget's is one of several diocesan parishes sending big groups of people to World Youth Day, according to Michael Theisen, diocesan director of youth ministry. Other parishes of note are St. John the Evangelist in Spencerport; St. Louis in Pittsford; and Our Lady of the Lakes Catholic Community, a six-church cluster in the Finger Lakes.

Theisen said a strong mix of teens and young adults is taking part in the overnight vigil. However, he said he was surprised by the level of teen participation since the upcoming World Youth Day has been promoted worldwide as a predominately young-adult event.

"I'm very glad that we had this option of offering the overnight for the teens. It allows us to respect the (young-adult) mission of World Youth Day as well as give a glimpse for teens into what it's all about. Young people will have the chance to see the Holy Father and to see so many Catholics in one place. They'll probably never see that many in one place again," Theisen said.

The vigil is designed so that young people can also attend World Youth Day's closing Mass July 28. The liturgy is scheduled to be celebrated by Pope John Paul II, who instituted World Youth Day in the mid-1980s and has presided over each gathering since then. World Youth Day is generally celebrated every two years, and was last held in Rome in 2000. The Toronto event is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of Catholics from all over the world.

In addition to the large number from the Rochester Diocese attending the overnight vigil, as many as 50 diocesan young adults plan to make a one-week pilgrimage to World Youth Day, from July 22-29.

Although space is limited, Theisen said there is still time to register for both the one-night vigil for teens (ages 14 and up) and young adults (ages 18 to 39), as well as the one-week option for young adults only. He advised anyone interested to check first with their parish to obtain registration forms.

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MASS SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses:	Saturday - 4:30 pm Sunday - 10:00 am & 7:30 pm
Weekday Masses:	Monday through Saturday - 12:10 pm (With Novena Devotions for the Day)
Confession:	Before all weekday Masses Monday - Saturday 11:30 am
Baptisms:	Sunday by Appointment
Novena:	Tuesday - St. Anthony 12:00 noon
Devotions:	Wednesday - Perpetual Help 11:55 am Friday - St. Jude - 12:00 noon
Eucharistic Adoration:	First Saturday - 10:20 am - 11:20 am

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