



Date: 15 May 2008

To: Marianist University Campus Ministry
Marianist Secondary Educational Institutions
Marianist Parishes
Marianist Retreat Centers
Mr. Dan Richter - Marianist Volunteer Program
Fr. Oscar Vazquez, S.M. - Temporary Professed Program
Bro. Charles Johnson, S.M. - Marianist Vocation Office
Mr. Brian Reavey - Marianist LIFE Program

From: Bro. Jack Ventura, S.M.
Assistant for the Office of Religious Life

Re: World Youth Day – 2008
Sydney, Australia

As many of you know, World Youth Day will take place in Sydney, Australia, July 15-21, 2008. As in 2005, the Marianist Province hopes to have a representative group from the Province of the United States attend this very special event.

In an effort to facilitate a Marianist presence at this worldwide event, the Office of Religious Life will be coordinating a package tour for those who wish to participate. Because of the location of Australia and crossing the international date line, there are two very specific tours for the province delegation. For those leaving from the mainland of the U.S., your departure city would be Los Angeles on Saturday, July 11, 2008. For those who are departing from Honolulu, your departure date is Sunday, July 12, 2008. Both groups will meet in Sydney on Monday, July 13, 2008. Our return back to the United States is scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2008.

I am pleased to inform you that the Provincial Council has authorized financial assistance for those who are interested in attending this event. Criteria for this financial assistance will remain the same as for the 2005 World Youth Day, namely, no one person can request more than \$1,000 of the tour price and a formal application for aid must be submitted. Marianist institutions and the person traveling will contribute the remaining costs. The number of seats available and financial assistance is limited. Both will be on a first come basis.

Since we are planning this excursion more than a year in advance, it is impossible to negotiate prices from your home cities to either Los Angeles, Calif., or Honolulu, Hawaii. I have been advised that as we get closer to the date of departure, airlines will run specials to these cities and that it is more cost effective to book those tickets separate from the World Youth Day Tour Package.

For complete information about our pilgrimage, please visit <http://marianists.questtravelgroup.com>. The itinerary, registration for World Youth Day, costs and financial aid application can be downloaded from this Web site. Your first deposit and registration must be sent to me.

If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Many blessings,

Bro. Jack Ventura, S.M.
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