

Fundraising 101

Poland 2016

Fundraising is an important part of your preparations for World Youth Day. Because this is a pilgrimage – focused on prayer, reflection, celebrating the Sacraments and deepening our faith – our fundraising efforts can have a profound spiritual component, especially as we seek the support of our Christian community.

To help you begin on your fundraising preparations, consider three types of fundraising that can help you get to World Youth Day in Poland 2016:

Sacrifice:

What things can you sacrifice, or give up, to save money for World Youth Day? Can you give up your daily coffee or soda, treats, movie theater tickets, accessories, DVDs, or video games? These small sacrifices can really add up over time, helping you to save for your pilgrimage and ready yourself spiritually.

Personal Fundraising:

How can you, as an individual, earn extra money to help you get to World Youth Day? Perhaps you can look for extra odd-jobs, such as lawn-care or babysitting, or work a few extra hours each week. Another way to raise money is by sending a letter to friends and family asking for their support. Explain what a pilgrimage is, ask them to join you in making a small sacrifice and promise to pray for them and their intentions on your journey. In this way, even though they may not be able to travel alongside you, they can be a part of your pilgrimage spiritual, as well as financial, way. We have included a sample letter that may assist you in your fundraising efforts.

Parish Fundraising:

Whether there is a group of pilgrims from your parish or just you, parish fundraisers are a great way to raise money for your pilgrimage and strengthen the life of your community! Approach your pastor soon and ask about the possibility of fundraising in your parish. Make sure that you explain the purpose of your fundraising and your ideas and ask for permission, parameters and guidelines. When you take pledges or funds, also take prayer intentions, and when you return, put together a slideshow presentation and share the fruits of your pilgrimage with members of your parish. You can even send postcards and letters to your sponsors while you are journeying.

Included is a list of fundraising ideas for individuals or groups in parishes. We pray that the Lord will bless your sacrifices and fundraising efforts as you prepare for World Youth Day!

Fundraising Ideas



- **Aerobics-athon Zumba style** - participants pay a gold coin donation to participate.
- **Disco** - gold coin door charge. Might also be great to sell food at the Disco too!
- **Raffles** - Get friends and family or local businesses to donate prizes and raffle them off.
- **WYD T-Shirt Day** - Dedicate a day of the week to wear any WYD t-shirt you may have and get everyone to bring a gold coin donation!
- **Quiz night** - Hold a quiz night where people enter in teams. Charge a fee for teams to enter.
- **Matched giving** - Double the money you raise fundraising by asking local businesses to support your cause!
- **International Poland Night** - Hold a 'Poland' night and have all things Polish! Decorate your venue with the Polish flag or with red or white. Have different national dishes of Poland and entertain your guests with Polish music. Why not also hold a quiz and test your friends' knowledge of Poland or of World Youth Day? Charge an entry fee.
- **Film night** - Create your own cinema and hold a film night for family and friends. Sell popcorn and drinks and charge an entry fee.
- **Bake/Cake/Food Sale** - get your youth leaders to have a bake off and sell your goods.
- **Walk-athon** - Get your youth group together and plan a route out. People can sponsor you per km you walk or simply make a donation.
- **Auctions** - You could do an auction for the following items/ideas:
 - Desserts
 - Lawn care service
 - Dinner auction
 - Babysitting
 - Youth for Service
- **Five a side tournament** - Challenge your friends or family members to a five a side tournament of any sport. You pay to play or to enter a team.
- **Car Wash** – Have a car wash at a local petrol station!
- **Sausage Sizzle** – Nothing beats having a sausage sizzle either after church, at your local supermarket or at local events!
- **Give it up!** - Get sponsored to go without something. Give up speaking for a day, computer games for a week, or give up chocolate for a month!