



George Dixon Fernandez

## World Youth Day Sydney 2008 Evaluation and Madrid 2011 planning Meeting

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Pontifical Council for laity and the youth section of Vatican invited MIJARC to take part in an *International Meeting* which held in Rome from 3 to 5 April 2009.

The purpose of the meeting was to evaluate WYD in Sydney 2008 and to initiate the pastoral and logistic planning of WYD in Madrid 2011. **One person from** National Bishops conferences and International Youth Movements, Associations and Communities were only invited for this important meeting. Representatives from the Australian and Spanish organising committees were also present. This meeting evaluated the pastoral impact of the Sydney WYD2008 and organisational aspects as well as made proposals for the planning of the forthcoming Madrid WYD 2011 where it is expecting about 2million young people from all over the world.

George Dixon Fernandez represented MIJARC in this meeting and made some contacts with Bishop Anthony Fisher from Sydney to create MIJARC groups in Australia; More over it was a good occasion to meet with Cardinal Anthony Rocco, Arch Bishop of Madrid which will further help us to organise our actions during the next WYD in Madrid together with our Spanish and Catalanian movements.

George had an opportunity to take part in the Diocese of Rome celebrations of the 24th World Youth Day together with the Pope on Palm Sunday, 5 April, in Saint Peter's Square. The Holy Father has chosen the themes for the next three World Youth Days. This is to help build a spiritual itinerary that will lead to the international WYD scheduled to take place in Madrid from 16 to 21 August 2011: The following are the World Youth Day themes

24<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day (2009)

*"We have set our hope on the living God"* (1 Tm 4:10)

25<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day (2010)

*"Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"* (Mk 10:17)

26<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day (2011)

*"Rooted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith"* (cf Col 2:7)