

# YOUNG OBSERVER

# Fly with



(CNS photo/Jonathan Ernst, Reuters)

## Who's going to WYD?

### How many?

30,000-40,000

pilgrims from the U.S.

### How old?

Generally 16-35

But some delegations are made up primarily of young adults mostly in their 20s and older

### From where?

Every state and more than 1,000 dioceses, parishes and apostolic movements

As the church in the U.S. has shown an increasing presence of Spanish-speaking Catholics, so will the tens of thousands of young people traveling to 2016 World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.

"There are more groups coming from heavily Hispanic/Latino dioceses, and in a particular way from apostolic movements like Charismatic Renewal, Focolare, and others," said Paul Jarzembowski, World Youth Day USA national coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

World Youth Day will take place in and around Krakow July 26-31, with Pope Francis leading events July 27-31, including a closing overnight vigil and Mass that is expected to draw as many as 2 million people.

Jarzembowski said his office has been working with the Polish Embassy in Washington, along with the U.S. and Polish governments, to ensure pilgrims' safety.

Bishop Frank J. Caggiano of Bridgeport, Conn., the U.S. bishops' episcopal liaison for World Youth Day, reminded participants to tell their banks that they're traveling, take enough of their medications, rest well before departing and stay hydrated in Poland.

Spiritually, he said, pilgrims can prepare their hearts by praying regularly and docilely, asking for the Holy Spirit's guidance and being open to the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

— Catholic News Service



(Observer photos/Sharon Boehlefeld)

A few drenching rounds of water balloon fights got everybody moving after dinner and loosened them up for other activities on the grounds of St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Freeport at the last YAC night, June 26. Starting this month, it will be ScY night.

**NEAR RIGHT:** "Pope Francis" holds his surfboard on a sandy beach tray, greeting people at YAC night.

**MIDDLE RIGHT:** Father Kenneth Wasilewski, diocesan ethicist, is introduced by his niece, Gabby Williams, whose t-shirt proclaims her love for Pope Francis. She and her family are St. Thomas Aquinas parishioners and regular youth night volunteers and participants.



Emarc Malavolti (left) leads the already-renamed ScY Band and singers during Mass. In addition to the volunteer singers, guitarists and pianist, there is also a drummer (behind the piano).

**RIGHT:** Emarc Malavolti (left) talks with some girls before the evening Q&A.

## Helping

IN INDIANA

## West Dundee Youth Repair Houses in Catholic Heart Work Camp



The Youth Mission Team of St. Catherine of Siena Church in West Dundee spent June 12-17 in Mishawaka, Ind., doing works of mercy with the Catholic Heart Work Camp.

For this, the 12th year of the trip, 32 teens were accompanied by nine adult chaperones.

The group helped spruce up residential homes by cleaning, painting, tidying up yards and gardens, planting flowers and other projects. They also assisted with a Habitat for

Humanity project.

The week was a combination of working for others, as well as spiritual renewal both in the morning before they worked and in the evenings. The group stayed at a school and slept on air mattresses.

The team joined more than 300 teens from neighboring states working in Mishawaka.

The St. Catherine of Siena Youth Mission Team is open to parish high school students, freshmen to graduated seniors.

St. Catherine team members were Victoria Antonelli, Emily Armstrong, Madelyn Barrett, Michell Barrett, Bridget Bolt, Michael Chammany, Chris Cranston, Adam Davis, Abigail DeDina, Deeva Evangelista, Thomas Gallagher, Kimberly Grant, Steven Grant,

Catherine Hicks, Andrew Kaufmann, Justin Kaufmann, Stephanie Kaufmann, Jennifer Lipinski, Alex Maurer, Ewa Oszajec, Christopher Pottorff, Ryan Puvalowski, Sean Rebenstorf, Isabelle Reedy, DeMarco Scarnegie, Carson Scarnegie, Alex Semler, Christopher Semler, Owen Smith, Ryan Smith, Emily Wagh, and Brandon Wirkus.

Team chaperones were: Glenn Bolt, Bob Grant, Mark Hicks, Meaghan Pottorff, Christopher Reedy, Jim Scarnegie, Jim Semler, Jenny Wagh and Sara Wirkus.



(Observer photo/Dan Szpekowski)

# ScY

## Bishop Malloy to visit Stateline Catholic Youth in Freeport July 31

**F**or the first few years it was YAC night — Youth About Christ. Then it was YCIA — Young Catholics in Action.

Now it's ScY — Stateline Catholic Youth. And it's getting bigger all the time.

The monthly meetings have



been going on for about three years now, ever since Father Kenneth Anderson came to St. Thomas Aquinas Parish in Freeport.

He'd hosted youth nights at other parishes, but Freeport's location and the size of the three parishes have helped the program expand to serve young people from central and western parts of the Rockford Diocese.

Always open to youth from the three Freeport parishes — St. Thomas, St. Mary and St. Joseph — it has also attracted youth from as far as DeKalb, Sterling, Rock Falls, Galena, Durand and Hanover.

The evenings are coordinated by Freeport youth director Emarc Malavolti with

help from youth minister Robin Reif and others.

Last month's guest was Father Kenneth Wasilewski, diocesan ethicist, who answered questions from participants on matters of faith and morals.

There was after Mass, dinner and outdoor activities, ranging from water balloon fights to ultimate Frisbee.

The next session will feature a visit from Bishop David Malloy, who will join the group for Mass and dinner July 31.

Taking part is free, but it will help plan for food if you register ahead of time. Ask at your parish if you're interested or visit [www.stthomasfreeport.org/youth-ministry](http://www.stthomasfreeport.org/youth-ministry).



Father Kenneth Anderson, pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas, gestures during his homily at Mass.

**RIGHT:** Some teens even lose shoes (foreground) during activities like ultimate Frisbee.



### YO CALENDAR

#### ScY night with Bishop Malloy

**What:** Stateline Catholic Youth night — faith, food and fun — and 5:30 p.m. Mass with Bishop David Malloy (The whole family is welcome at Mass.)

**When and where:** July 31, 5-9 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas Parish, 1400 Kiwanis Dr., Freeport

**Info:** [www.stthomasfreeport.org/youth-ministry](http://www.stthomasfreeport.org/youth-ministry) or [facebook.com/ScYministry](https://www.facebook.com/ScYministry)



#### It's coming: Diocesan Youth Summit

**What:** The 2016 Rockford Diocese Catholic Youth Summit packed with music, adoration, confessions, Mass, quality time with Bishop Malloy, food and friends.

**When:** Oct. 30, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

**Where:** Rock Valley College in Rockford

**Theme:** "Blessed Are the Merciful."

Watch for more details as they develop in YO, on Facebook and Twitter.

### VOCATION CORNER

## Don't hesitate

**T**he other day I was sitting on a plane for an overnight flight and I was overjoyed when I realized that the two seats next to me were open. I was ecstatic because it meant that I would be able to sprawl out and sleep.

A woman sitting in front of me turned around and mentioned that her husband was stuck up front between two other people and asked me to let her know after takeoff if he could come back and have one of the two open seats.

Deep down I didn't want to do it! I'll admit that for about three minutes I actually laid down and tried to sleep. But my conscience told me that I knew what I had to do.

Eventually I got up and offered the seat to this woman's husband.

**The reason why I mention this story is I knew what I was supposed to do the whole time, yet I hesitated!**

I think this happens frequently to most of us. How often do you have a prick of your conscience or a tug at your heart, and then after a bit of deliberation decide to ignore it or to do something else? If we want to do God's will, then we need to believe that the Holy Spirit works through our consciences!

Often times we know what we are called to do, but we don't do it. So I simply encourage you today to say **yes** to whatever God is calling you to. Don't hesitate and don't hold back!

— Father Keith Romke, Diocesan Director of Vocations  
Write to him at [kromke@rockforddiocese.org](mailto:kromke@rockforddiocese.org).