



St. Josephine Bakhita
Feast Day February 8
Canonized - October 2000



ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER

BLACK CATHOLICS IN THE ROCKIES



St. Katharine Drexel
Feast Day March 3
Canonized - October 2000

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WORLD YOUTH DAY SPECIAL EDITION

We can pray that the Archdiocese of Denver will reap many blessings from the more than 500 Catholic youth from the area who attended WYD in Spain in August.

It was such a blessing for me to be able to share this pilgrimage and WYD with Catholics from St. Mark's parish in Westminster, St. John the Evangelist in Loveland, St. Frances Cabrini in Littleton, Holy Name in Steamboat Springs, St. Mary's in Littleton and Cure d' Ars in Denver.

Our trip took us thru London to Barcelona, Spain. Near Barcelona is the shrine at Montserrat which has the renowned *Our Lady of Montserrat* which is classified as one of the Black Virgins. The fame of this Blessed Virgin is world-wide and brought its devotion to the island of Montserrat in the Caribbean.

A tour bus took us to Lourdes in France where we participated in the candlelight procession, had Mass at the grotto and bathed in the miraculous waters. Being at such a famous site and sharing in the devotions there was a great preparation for the WYD events in Madrid.

The first day in Madrid brought us to an inspiring catechesis with Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM, Cap. It is customary for the Bishop to have a catechesis for the youth from their diocese. Following this we attended the EWTN show titled "Life On The Rock" featuring Bishop Conley.

The life size Stations of the Cross processed on the streets in Madrid. The figures brought the Stations to life in a way that made it very inspirational.

WORLD YOUTH DAY SPECIAL EDITION (continued)

very inspirational.

In the opening ceremonies, one of the youth spoke of the highlight being the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. There was a very ornate nine foot high gold and silver monstrance which is a treasured work of art in Spain. They felt the silence before the Blessed Sacrament was very moving.

Another youth spoke about the climax of WYD being reached when the Holy Father joins the youth. His first appearance at the prayer vigil became quite dramatic when the wind came up and a thunderstorm cooled off the crowd.

After an all-night vigil on the ground, the more than one million + pilgrims were ready for the closing mass with Pope Benedict, 700 Bishops and 14,000 priests from all over the world.

“Firmes en la FE” was the official WYD song. The chorus is:

*We go forward in Christ,
He's our companion and He is Lord!
Glory be to Him! Glory Be to Him!
We go forward in Christ
Made stronger in our faith.*

The message was often repeated that the youth were sent out into the world from which they came “firm and stronger in their faith” to evangelize the world for Christ.

The Spiritual Advisors Fr. Alvaro Montero, Fr. Javier O'Connor and Fr. Brady Wagner reinforced the theme throughout our pilgrimage.

The next Word Youth Day will be in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2013.

*Mary L. Leisring, Director
Office of Black Catholic Ministry*

Director's Note

Mary L. Leisring



As we rejoice in the gathering of more than a million youth in

Madrid, Spain for World Youth Day, we want to re-dedicate ourselves to promoting the Faith in our parish and community.

LOCAL NEWS**Archdiocesan Charismatic Ministry Conference**

September 23-25, 2011

Theme: "Fanning the Flame: Call to Love, Called to Serve"

One of the Keynote Speakers:

Deacon Alex Jones

**Closing Mass
Auxiliary Bishop
James D. Conley
Archdiocese of Denver**

NATIONAL NEWS

**Xavier University of
Louisiana
Institute for Black Catholic
Studies**

**Mark Your Calendars
Now!**

Summer 2012**June 22—July 14**

**Telephone: 504-520-7691
Email: IBCS@xula.edu**

Fax: 504-420-7924**DENVER'S SAINTLY WOMAN****Died—Feast of the Sacred Heart—June 7, 1918**

Julia Greeley." This "saintly woman" was a former slave who came to Denver in the employ of Colorado's first territorial governor, William Gilpin, in 1874. Greeley entered the Catholic Church in 1880 at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Denver. From then on she was known for a great devotion to the Sacred Heart and regularly traveled.

To rise out of slavery and then dedicate her life to enhance the quality of life for others continues to inspire. Julia Greeley is such a woman. She was regularly seen traveling in back alleys carrying firewood, food or a bundle of clothing on her back, delivering it to someone in need. Greeley earned about \$10 a month in her work as a domestic in private homes or rectories. From these earnings she helped the poor and even gave to a destitute man her own burial plot, which had been left to her by Mrs. Gilpin. She helped to restore women's dignity in a unique way.

Julia's devotion to the Eucharist was well known. She traveled from one church to another to participate in Forty Hours devotion. She could be seen kneeling motionless, with perfect posture, absorbed in adoration of the Eucharist. When parishioners objected to her approaching for Communion in her hand-me-down work clothing and oversized shoes, Jesuit Father Edward Barry refused to buckle to the elite's prejudice. When she died on the feast of the Sacred Heart June 7, 1918, a multitude of rich and poor citizens streamed past her coffin paying their respects as Greeley lay in state at Sacred Heart Church, an honor given to no other lay person in Denver, reported the September 1943 Colorado Magazine.

She was Professed into the Third Order of Saint Francis in 1901.

A way of honoring her would be to visit her grave at Mount Olivet, Section 8 Block 7.

Quotes and Photos from World Youth Day



I thank God for the numerous graces that He granted me on this pilgrimage. My experiences at Lourdes, Fatima and with the Pope have changed my life for the better; I will never forget the love of God that was revealed to me on this pilgrimage! I feel so blessed for having the opportunity that I had to take this journey of faith. Esta es la juventud de Papa! This is the youth of the Pope! Karenna Romero

There are not enough words in the English dictionary to describe how the pilgrimage touched my heart. From touching the grotto in Lourdes, sleeping in a wet cold field with 2 million other youth, and walking on my knees in Fatima. This pilgrimage will forever hold a special significance in my heart. Cory Nash

I remember our chaperones saying that we will come home equipped with dozens of stories from our trip, but being able to tell stories to others about our pilgrimage, easier said than done. I can go on and on about going to Lourdes, Barcelona or Madrid, but actually telling you about my experiences, words cannot begin to express the magic I felt or the pain I suffered. Yes, you can see the bumps and bruises as pictures captured, but trusting how WYD just have to wait and was adorned in flowers made it peaceful and opportunity to do the I did it! I came home and feet but it didn't the sky and smiled to for allowing me the



well as the tons of pic-ly and completely under-changes a person, you'll see. Everywhere we went and Holy graces which intriguing. We had the penance crawl at Fatima, with blisters on my knees faze me. I looked up into Jesus and thanked God honor of being in the exact spot the Virgin Mary appeared many years ago. I guess it's because scars last forever, and I'll be able to see what wonderful graces our Mother put upon me for the rest of my life. This pilgrimage, also known to some as a vacation or trip, has opened my eyes and my heart to further allow God and the Blessed Mary to show me the graces that they suffered for and now that I'm suffering for. This was my first WYD and I hope it is not my last. I hope to see you all in Rio de Janerio! Mary pray for us and God bless!

~Amy Johnston



Quotes and Photos from World Youth Day

Reflections of World Youth Day Madrid, Spain—August 2011 Jill Waters

World Youth Day is about a pilgrimage to perform a reality check on your faith. It is about being in Lourdes and celebrating Mass in a room so small that you are thankful no one brought a back pack, because you wouldn't have fit in the room. It is about participating in a candle light vigil in Lourdes or Fatima and listening to various groups praying the Hail Mary or Our Father in their own language, and everyone joining together to sing the Ave Maria between decades. World Youth Day is discussing a pilgrimage before your departure and way through that it is a lot believed. World Youth Day is moments, gestures and words have become your family. singing the same song over, cause it is your priest's favorite return home if that song is be able to keep a straight face.

World Youth Day is from far away that share the World Youth Day is about country. It is about a group of down the street and spotting breaking out in a chorus of "USA, USA". It is a group of Americans walking down the street and spotting an Italian flag breaking out in a chorus of "Viva Italia"!

Sometimes, World Youth Day is about watching a riot break out in front of your hotel, and realizing how blessed you are to live where you live.

World Youth Day is about a pilgrimage in 101° degree weather to spend the day with your new two million closest friends to await the Pope and a tremendous rain storm in a dirt field far from creature comforts. World Youth Day is about celebrating your faith with Catholics from countries around the world. Catholicism has a 2000 year history and you realize when surrounded by the young people of the world that your church will not grow old and it will continue to thrive. If two million kids in a field chanting about the Pope of the Young People can't convince you of that, you must not have been at World Youth Day 2011.



having the kids realize half more work than they ever about sharing special moments with a group of friends who World Youth Day is about and over, and over again bite and knowing upon your sung during Mass no one will

about meeting new people common bond of your faith. breaking the barriers of kids carrying a Brazilian flag your US flag and suddenly

PRAYER FOR THE CAUSE OF FATHER AUGUSTUS TOLTON

O God, we give you thanks for your servant and priest, Father Augustus Tolton, who labored among us in times of contradiction, times that were both beautiful and paradoxical. His ministry helped lay the foundation for a truly Catholic gathering in faith in our time. We stand in the shadow of his ministry. May his life continue to inspire us and imbue us with that confidence and hope that will forge a new evangelization for the Church we love.

Father in heaven, Father Tolton's suffering service sheds light upon our sorrows; we see them through the prism of your Son's passion and death. If it be your will, O God, glorify your servant, Father Tolton, by granting the favor I now ask through his intercession, (mention your request), so that all may know the goodness of this priest whose memory looms large in the Church he loved.

Complete what you have begun in us that we might work for the fulfillment of your kingdom. Not to us the glory, but glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, your Son and our Lord. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are God, living and reigning forever and ever. Amen.

**Bishop Joseph N. Perry
Imprimatur: Francis Cardinal George,
OMI
Archdiocese of Chicago
2010**



HELPFUL WEBSITES

Institute for Black Catholic Studies

This is a direct link to Xavier University

<http://www.xula.edu/ibcs/index.php>

Black and Indian Mission Office

www.blackandindianmission.org

Eternal World Television Network (EWTN)

<http://www.ewtn.com>

Franciscan Handmaids of Mary

www.franciscanhandmaidsofmary.org

"In a Word"

www.inaword.com

The Josephites

Founded in 1893, United States

www.josephite.com

Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver

<http://www.kofpc.org>

National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life

www.blackcatholicsforlife.org

National Black Catholic Congress

www.nbccongress.org

Oblate Sisters of Providence

Founded in 1829, Baltimore, Maryland

www.oblatesisters.com

Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament

Founded in 1891, Bensalem, Pennsylvania

www.katharinedrexel.org

Sister of the Holy Family

Founded in 1842, New Orleans, Louisiana

<http://members.aol.com/srdechntl/hfamily/>

The Society of the Divine Word

Founded in 1875, Steyl, Holland

www.divineword.org

**OFFICE OF BLACK CATHOLIC MINISTRY
CONTACT INFORMATION**

Archdiocese of Denver

Newsletter—Black Catholics In The Rockies

Editor.....Mary L. Leisring

Resources and Credits

National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life

National Black Catholic Congress

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