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Message for World Youth Day 2004

The theme of the 19th World Youth Day is the petition some “Greeks” brought to the Apostles: “We Want to See Jesus” (Jn 12:21). We also offer a video of scenes from previous meetings of John Paul II with participants in UNIV congresses.

03/29/2004

Here are some segments of the Holy Father's message for World Youth Day 2004, which takes place

in Rome and in the local churches on April 4 (Palm Sunday). The full text of the message is also available online.

“The desire to see Jesus dwells deep in the heart of each man and each woman. My dear young people, allow Jesus to gaze into your eyes so that the desire to see the Light, and to experience the splendor of the Truth, may grow in you.”

“My dear young people, don’t you too wish to contemplate the beauty of that Face? That is the question I address to you on this World Youth Day 2004. Don’t be too hasty in your reply. First of all, create a silence within yourselves. Allow this ardent desire to see God emerge from the depth of your hearts, a desire that is sometimes stifled by the distractions of the world and by the allurements of pleasures. Allow this desire to emerge and you will have the

wonderful experience of meeting Jesus.”

“Only an encounter with Jesus can give full meaning to your lives.... Do not let yourselves be distracted from this search. Persevere in it because it is your fulfillment and your joy that is at stake.”

“Dear friends, if you learn to discover Jesus in the Eucharist, you will also know how to discover him in your brothers and sisters, particularly in the very poor. The Eucharist received with love and adored with fervor becomes a school of freedom and charity in order to fulfill the commandment to love.”

“It is just this truth that I wished to bring to the minds of the young people of the world when I entrusted them with a large wooden Cross at the end of the Holy Year of the Redemption in 1984. Ever since then, it has traveled through different

countries in preparation for your World Days.... This year, on the 20th anniversary of that event, the Cross will be solemnly welcomed in Berlin. From there it will commence its pilgrimage throughout Germany, concluding in Cologne next year.”

“Your contemporaries expect you to be witnesses of the One whom you have met and who gives you life. In your daily lives, be intrepid witnesses of a love that is stronger than death. It is up to you to accept this challenge! Put your talents and your youthful enthusiasm at the service of the proclamation of the Good News. Be the enthusiastic friends of Jesus who present the Lord to all those who wish to see him, especially those who are farthest away from him.... Feel responsible for the evangelization of your friends and all your contemporaries.”

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