

World Youth Day - Theme

«Mary arose and went with haste» (Lk 1:39) is the bible quote chosen by Pope Francis as the motto of the World Youth Day that will be held for the first time in the capital city of Lisbon, Portugal. The quote from the Gospel of St. Luke, opens the account of the Visitation, a biblical episode following the Annunciation (the angel's announcement to Mary that she would be the mother of the Son of God, and the theme of the last WYD, in Panama).

Mary of Nazareth is the great figure of the Christian journey. She teaches us to say yes to God. She was the protagonist of the last edition of WYD and will be so once again in Lisbon.

In the biblical episode of the Visitation, the action of standing up presents Mary as both a woman of charity and a missionary woman. Leaving in haste represents the attitude depicted in Pope Francis' indications for WYD Lisbon 2023: «may young people's evangelization be active and missionary, for this is how they will recognize and witness the presence of the living Christ».

Addressing young people in particular, and challenging them to be courageous missionaries, the following was written by the Pope in *Christus Vivit*: « Where does Jesus send us? There are no borders, no limits: he sends us everywhere. The Gospel is for everyone, not just for some ».