



CONGREGAZIONE DELLA PASSIONE DI GESÙ CRISTO
P.ZA SS.GIOVANNI E PAOLO, 13
00184 ROMA - ITALIA

Al Superiore Generale

Prot.n.2007.0167

Rome, 13th August 2007

INVITATION LETTER

Re: The July 2008 World Youth Day in Australia.

To all Provincial Superiors, Vice Provincials and Regional Vicars, requesting they in turn kindly send this out to their respective communities, parishes and pastoral centres, as well as to the laity and women religious of our extended Passionist Family and perhaps others.

My dear Brothers, Sisters and lay persons of our Passionist Family,

In April 2006 – see the July 2006 issue of the *PIB* – I sent a letter to the Congregation and to all our Passionist Family regarding a special initiative in favour of our young people on occasion of the World Youth Day to be held in Australia on July 1st 2008. Pope Benedict XVI will grace it with his presence, and so this has seemed to be a splendid opportunity, not to be passed up and benefiting our pastoral ministry, for the young members of our Congregation and those youths in various ways associated with us, to come together in a fraternal encounter.

Holy Spirit Province (SPIR, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea) in collaboration with the International Commission – created ad hoc for this purpose – is drawing up a programme for an encounter of Passionist youth to be held in Melbourne from the 9th to the 12th July 2008, during those few days preceding the official World Youth Day slated to take place in Sydney from 14th to 20th July 2008. The young members of our Congregation together with all those in one way or another associated with us are therefore invited to participate in this event which will be centred on the theme of **Our Passionist Charism and Youth**. The programme will be multi-lingual and moderated by Passionists from different parts of the world. Hence I would request you carefully consider which young people you'll be inviting in order that they may profitably participate in this unique encounter.

Needless to say your interest and collaboration in all this will greatly assist Holy Spirit Province in organising the event. If you haven't already done so I would likewise request that you notify Father John Pearce, C.P., Coordinator, of the Holy Spirit Province

Commission, the name of the contact Religious or other person chosen for this purpose by your Province, Vice Province or Vicariate. All information regarding the preparation of this Youth Encounter will be sent to these people by e-mail or other means, in order that they in turn may inform the Communities, Parishes, etc. of their respective jurisdictions.

Kindly inform Fr. John Pearce, C.P. – john.pearce@passionists.com the name of the person chosen by you. He or she must in turn send Fr. Pearce his following data:

- Name
- E-mail address
- Postal address
- The language – or languages – of the information material to be sent.

The Holy Spirit Commission will find its task made so much easier if it possesses the name of this Coordinator, and your task too will be facilitated as that person can then keep you posted about the ongoing preparatory work for the event.

It might seem that the appointed dates in July 2008 are comfortably far off, seeing there's still the best part of a year to go, but bear in mind that visa requests to enter Australia do take time, so I would like to insist you give this matter preferential treatment. I must also ask you not to report back in too much detail on your own organising efforts, as this will lighten your own work.

Another reason for urgency is that Holy Spirit Province is already engaged in planning the logistics involved in quartering and caring for the participating youth so that the whole experience may turn out to have been a positive and unforgettable one for our young people.

All information regarding the event will appear regularly on the corresponding web site: <http://www.passion8.org.au>

I would invite you all to visit this web site and so keep informed about how things are coming along. Once again, here's the e-mail address of the Holy Spirit Province Coordinator so you can contact him whenever you might wish to do so: john.pearce@passionists.com

Faternally in Christ,

Rome, Saints John & Paul, 12th August, 2007

(Most Rev.) Ottaviano D'Egidio
Superior General, C.P.