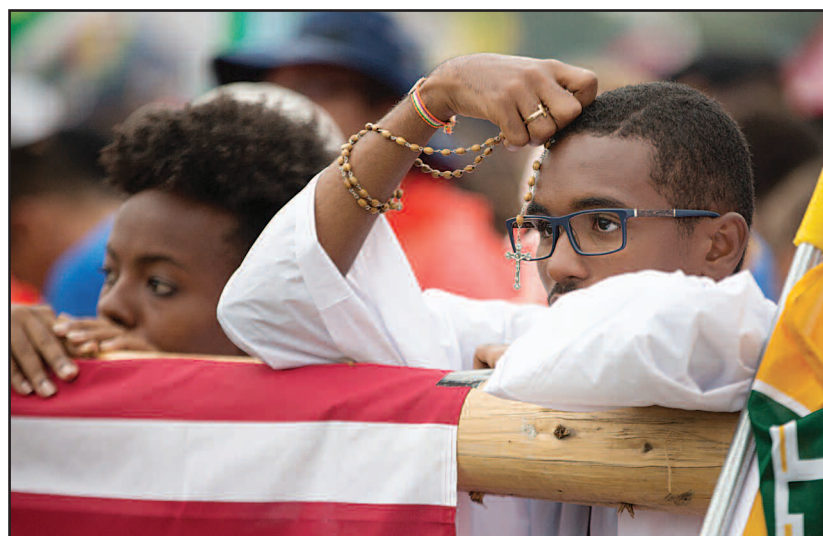


WORLD YOUTH DAY

Joyful crowd welcomes pope to World Youth Day



CS PHOTOS BY JACLYN LIPPELMANN
 Hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world greet Pope Francis July 28 as he arrives at Blonia Park in Kraków for the 2016 World Youth Day welcoming ceremony. The Holy Father greeted the crowd warmly and said, "At last, we are together."



WORLD YOUTH DAY

Young pilgrims pray Stations of the Cross with pope



Pope Francis led young men and women July 29 in the Way of the Cross at World Youth Day in Kraków. "Dancers, acrobats, painters and other artists performed interpretations of each key moment leading up to Christ's crucifixion, death and burial. Each significant event of Jesus's crucifixion was linked to a corporal or spiritual work of mercy. Pope Francis called on all young people to be at the forefront of serving others, and a path of personal commitment and self-sacrifice. "The Way of the Cross is the only thing that conquers sin, evil and death, for it leads to the radiant light of Christ's resurrection and opens the horizons of a new and fuller life," the pope said.



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WORLD YOUTH DAY



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World Youth Day vigil

Pope Francis encourages pilgrims to 'leave mark on history'

An estimated 1.6 million pilgrims gathered at Campus Misericordiae in Kraków for the July 30 World Youth Day prayer vigil with Pope Francis. "God expects something from you. God wants something from you. God hopes in you," said the pope. "We adults need you to show us how to live in diversity, in dialogue ... Jesus is calling you to leave your mark on history." Many of the pilgrims walked more than four miles to the Field of Mercy. Arriving in his popemobile, Pope Francis waved at the throngs of young people who stretched out their hands. Stopping at a wooden Door of Mercy inscribed with the words "Jesus, I trust in you" in five languages, he was greeted by several young men and women. Hand-in-hand with the pope, they entered through the door.

