



VISITE DU PAPE BENOÎT XVI EN FRANCE DU 12 AU 15 SEPTEMBRE 2008



NEWSLETTER No. 4
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Thursday, 28 August 2008

... LATEST NEWS AND INFORMATION ...

➤ **“Procession of Light” in Paris on Friday, 12th September, from the Parvis of the Notre-Dame Cathedral to the Esplanade des Invalides**

Following evening prayers in the Parvis of the Notre-Dame de Paris Cathedral on Friday, 12th September, we invite all those who wish to take part in the “Procession of Light” to join us at midnight. The Procession will follow the statue of Our Lady from the Cathedral’s Parvis to the Esplanade des Invalides. Candles will be handed out to participants.

At the same time, ten or so parishes will be holding prayer evenings on various themes led by groups of young people. Those taking part in these evenings will then join the Procession of Light and make their way to the Invalides.

When the procession arrives at the Esplanade des Invalides, the statue of Our Lady will be placed on a temporary altar in the middle of the Esplanade. Participants will be able to continue their prayers or take their places in the special areas prepared for the Mass to be celebrated by the Pope on the morning of Saturday, 13th September.

(See the website www.papeaparis.org).

➤ **Benedict XVI will anoint the sick during the Mass in Lourdes on Monday, 15th September**

On Monday, 15th September, the Holy Father will anoint the sick during the mass that he will celebrate in front of the Basilica of the Rosary from 9.30 a.m. onwards.

For a long time, the sacrament of anointing the sick was known as the Sacrament of Extreme Unction and was reserved for those who were dying. Today, in accordance with the most ancient traditions, the sacrament reserved for those dying is the Sacrament of the Eucharist, said to be received as Viaticum (“provision for a journey”). Anointing, however, is offered as a sacrament to the sick who ask for courage and hope in their suffering and difficulties and who receive, through this sacrament, confidence and spiritual strength from the Church. Like all sacraments, it transforms the person who receives it in faith.

In Lourdes, the sick have always received special attention. From the very beginning, people, including health care professionals, have volunteered their services to help them. Specific accommodation centres, known as the “*Accueils des Malades*”, have also been built for the sick and the best seats are reserved for them in churches.

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➤ **The Holy Father's pilgrimage to Lourdes in association with World Youth Days and the Quebec International Eucharistic Congress**

The programme for the Pope's visit to Lourdes will also place special emphasis on young people, particularly those who participated in the World Youth Days in Sydney or Lourdes in July 2008. During the mass to be celebrated on Sunday, 14th September, the Holy Father will deliver a message to all young pilgrims present. Some of the young people will be carrying the WYD cross, thus linking the Holy Father's pilgrimage to Lourdes to the Sydney WYD and all previous WYDs.

The WYD cross is a large and very simple wooden structure. It stands 3.8 m tall and 1.75 m wide and weighs 30 kg. Since Pope John-Paul II entrusted this cross to the young people of the world after the 1984 Holy Year, it has travelled the globe and is present at all youth meetings, especially each WYD.

A replica of the Ark of the Covenant, which travelled throughout Canada to mark the International Eucharistic Congress held in Quebec in June 2008, will also be in Lourdes.

The Ark of the Covenant contained the Stone Tablets, or the Ten Commandments, given to man through Moses and the Israelites. Christian tradition sees a prophetic image of the Incarnation in the Ark of the Covenant: the Word of God transformed into flesh within the Virgin Mary.

Direct link to the Lourdes Jubilee 2008 newsletters: [Newsletter Lourdes](#)

➤ **Chronological web portal for the Pope's visit to France**

The website **www.pape-france.org** is a portal provided by the National Conference of the Bishops of France allowing people to follow Benedict XVI's visit to France. The website enables user to:

- follow preparations for the visit and watch as motivation and involvement grow,
- view the highlights of the Holy Father's journey with video footage, accounts by those taking part, photos, etc.
- read texts, statements and speeches,
- learn more about Benedict XVI in articles about his writings, travels, etc.
- read the latest news about the Pope's visit provided by diocese and catholic media websites through a selection of links, video footage and forums,
- gain insight into the meaning of the Pope's visit to Paris and Lourdes, and into his relations with France, by means of special reference sheets,
- For the media: access to press kits, newsletters and continuously updated information.

Web portal for the Pope's visit to France: www.pape-france.org



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- access www.papeaparis.org and www.jubile2008.com, websites run by the Diocese of Paris and Lourdes Sanctuaries.

www.papeaparis.org provides all sorts of practical information about the Holy Father's stopover in Paris:

- A detailed programme for each meeting,
- How to get to the celebration venues (public transport, access for disabled people, safety information and instructions, etc.),
- How to register as a volunteer, etc.

www.jubile2008.com, the official Lourdes Apparitions Jubilee Year website, also provides practical information on how to join the Holy Father's pilgrimage to Lourdes (programme, how to get there, advice and recommendations, etc). Also available online: the Jubilee newsletter, videos and blogs connected with the Jubilee Year, and access to the webcam filming the Grotto around the clock.

➤ Press conferences on the Pope's visit to France

Monday, 8th September in Paris, 11.30 a.m., at the *Maison de la Conférence des évêques de France*, (58 av. de Breteuil, 7th district of Paris): press conference with Cardinal André VINGT-TROIS, Archbishop of Paris and Chairman of the National Conference of the Bishops of France.

Friday, 12th September, 9.15 p.m., Paris press centre (*Ecole militaire*, 1 place du Maréchal Joffre, 7th district of Paris): press update with, as the main speaker, Msgr Claude DAGENS, Bishop of Angoulême and member of the *Académie Française*.

Saturday, 13th September, 1 p.m., Paris press centre (*Ecole militaire*): press update with, as the main speaker, Cardinal Jean-Pierre RICARD, Archbishop of Bordeaux.

Saturday, 13th September, 7.30 p.m., Lourdes press centre: press update with Msgr Jacques PERRIER, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, and Msgr Jean-Michel DI FALCO LEANDRI, Bishop of Gap and Embrun.

Sunday, 14th September, 7 p.m., Lourdes press centre: press update with Cardinal André VINGT-TROIS and Msgr Jacques PERRIER.

Monday, 15th September, 2 p.m., Lourdes press centre: press update with, as the main speaker, Msgr Jacques PERRIER.



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➤ Accreditation

Accreditation badges for journalists going to Lourdes only are to be collected in Lourdes according to the instructions that will be provided shortly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The Ministry will also give information and instructions for any journalists who may have been unable to collect their badges in Paris in the week from 18th to 22nd August.

For all other enquiries concerning accreditation or press badges, please contact Mr Michel Dauger at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs: michel.dauger@diplomatie.gouv.fr, +33 (0)1 43 17 52 63, +33 (0)1 43 17 52 23 or +33 (0)1 43 17 43 92.

➤ Access to the Esplanade des Invalides for journalists on Saturday, 13th September

A special area will be reserved for accredited journalists at the Mass on Saturday, 13th September. Journalists are invited to make their way to the Esplanade des Invalides via the Boulevard des Invalides. They must have their accreditation badge with them.

*Direct link to previous newsletters covering the
Pope's visit to France:*

[Newsletters about the Pope's visit](#)