



para el mundo - pour le monde - for the World - para o mundo - per il mondo

"As Sa-Fa Family we feel the call to walk with young people and families" (Ch. XXXVIII. Doc. Brothers and Laity). This was one of the strong calls that the General Chapter of 2019 proposed to the whole Sa-Fa Family. Likewise, the Project of Life of the Brothers which the same Chapter drew up included among its objectives: "To give priority in our mission to the encounter with young people: to be close to them, to listen to them, to understand them, to accompany them" (PLI).

Listening to these two calls, the General Council in its Action Plan for the six-year period proposed that the year 2023 should have "young people and families" at its centre through this concrete objective: *"To revitalise our mission with young people and families"*.

To achieve this objective, a meeting of youth animators was proposed in order to *"foster knowledge of the youth ministry of the Provinces, promote meetings with young people and give shape to the Sa-Fa youth movement"*. It was held in Sigüenza (Spain) from 27 to 30 July. It was attended by 21 animators, lay people and Brothers.

Walking with young people

The dates were chosen with the celebration of the WYD in Lisbon from the 1st to the 6th of August in mind, thus giving the participants the possibility to take part in these world days.

At the same time as the Meeting of animators, and in the same house in Sigüenza, about 100 young people of the Sa-Fa Family from different countries had an experience of living the Sa-Fa charism in a multicultural environment. Later they participated in the World Youth Day as a group of the Sa-Fa Family. About 120 in total.

May this first meeting of young people of the Sa-Fa Family be the beginning of a happy experience that can be extended in the coming years to similar meetings and to try to relate to each other and share our life and work by other means, such as the telematic ones that are there inviting us to get closer to each other.

May the example of Brother Gabriel and the light of the Holy Family accompany us on this new journey with young people.



Meeting of animators Sa-Fa

The call to walk with young people made by the last General Chapter was the one that encouraged us to organise the *First Meeting of Sa-Fa Animators* from 27 to 30 July in Sigüenza. The participation in the WYD made it possible for leaders from Angola, Argentina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Spain, Italy and Uruguay to meet there with the intention of finding out how we should walk with our young people today in our evangelising task.

The motto of the meeting complemented that of the World Youth Day, "*Mary of Nazareth arose and departed without delay*", because we wanted our meeting to take place under the roof of Nazareth. Thus our family charism was very much present during those days.

On one of the days, we were fortunate to have our General Animator, Javier Hernando, who, in two talks, developed, bearing in mind the Pope's Apostolic Exhortation *Christus Vivit*, the religious situation of society and of young people today, as well as the traits that a Sa-Fa animator should have, which led us to a rich dialogue.

But undoubtedly the most interesting moment was giving a voice to the young people so that they could share with us "what they expect from their pastoral work and what aspects of it they think could be improved". In them we saw boys and girls who identify deeply with our charism, who are concerned that things should be done better and who ask themselves about vocation in all its aspects in order to better serve their society.

The fruits of this meeting will be seen in the future; today, we have already sown the seed. Now we will have to take care of it so that it will grow and bear fruit.

Irene Hidalgo



International Sa-Fa youth meeting

In Sigüenza, under the motto "In prayer, work and love: peace", the 1st International Sa-Fa Youth Meeting took place from 27 to 30 July. More than 80 people experienced the sense of body and family as Sa-Fa Family. We share the testimony of several young participants from Spain, Uruguay and Brazil.



This meeting has been something unique to live and share; a golden opportunity given to the young communities to live together the Sa-Fa charism that we all carry within us. I found it very enriching to be able to share it with young people from other countries.

It has turned my life around and taught me many things. I learned to understand new

cultures and to participate in them, no matter how different they were. I felt the welcome of the whole Sa-Fa Family and I have experienced it with a more mature and service-oriented perspective. I have never before been so aware of what it is to be a Sa-Fa Family. What a joy to be part of this!

We have learned that Prayer is a promoter of action. That work makes us men and women of our time. And that only through Love will we be able to change our outlook and have that missionary joy.

All this with a feeling of being Church and of belonging to the Sa-Fa Family with the charism of Brother Gabriel. Sigüenza was an excellent place to ask myself many new things about myself, and to continue growing in faith. And from the Encounter to the WYD in Lisbon: a luxury for our faith.

Experiences collected by Gustavo

"Called to care for life, the environment and nature"

WYD, an invisible hurricane



Antoine de Saint-Exupéry says in *The Little Prince* that “what is essential is invisible to the eye”. That is why it is impossible to sum up the essence of WYD in Lisbon in just a few words. Because the essence of these days of encounter cannot be read or heard, not even from the mouths of the participants themselves. Frustration will be the result of trying to turn to the press, the radio, social networks or any human medium to understand what World Youth Day was all about.

The words of Pope Francis, the Eucharists, the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the concerts, the prayers, the catechesis, the conferences and the hundreds of other events make up only the tangible part of a gathering whose real value can only be measured in the hearts and heads of the thousands of Christians who gathered in Lisbon.

To write about my experience would be to reduce the purpose of this article to something too small. Therefore, what I present below as a quick and small brushstroke is a compendium of the ideas that many young people have reflected on and prayed about based on their particular experience of WYD. And yet, even so, the article does not go far enough. Because these lines bring together the thoughts, ideas and prayers of a handful of young people.

The real fruit, therefore, of WYD Lisbon 2023 will be the change that the participants allow God to bring about based on what has moved and stirred them. WYD is a static meeting, but life, based on love, is a dynamic movement towards others. The fruit will be harvested in the movement that young people are called to lead in their destinies.

These days I have met young people who were suffering discomfort and difficulty, but who said that it was worth it. Young people who sought God and who marvelled at how He calls so many (and each one by name). I have watched young people whose patterns were broken because of God, and they accepted it gratefully.

I have heard young people say that they feel loved “without make-up” by God and understand, at the same time, that life is for those who dream of good. I have seen young people dreaming of holi-



ness; singing, not knowing each other, but recognising each other as brothers; praying together, regardless of their notable differences.

But it doesn't matter what I have seen; it matters what you want to see now. If you want to know what WYD has been, is and will be, go to those who have participated and watch them in silence, appreciating how they accept the God of “all” in their lives.

A pilgrim at WYD - 2023

This is how i experienced it...



The meeting in Sigüenza was an opportunity to experience the Sa-Fa charism. Different ages, languages and cultures but one family. May this shared moment be a new impulse for the charism of the Sa-Fa Family (M. Parfait, BF).

This meeting was a motivation for me to respond to the call to live in a community sustained by the family spirit. I came back with a beating heart, dreaming... to continue to move forward in forming Sa-Fa youth communities (Angelita. AR).

In Lisbon we experienced many challenges that touched us, such as the contact with other cultures, countries and people. Seeing the Holy Father and listening to his words made our hearts beat faster. We came back renewed and joyful (Diogo, Hugo and Maikel. BR).

WYD was an ENCOUNTER with the Father, with so many brothers and sisters in faith and with the Sa-Fa Family. Called to evangelise through our lives, forgiven and received into the Church. An encounter with myself, with the other and above all with Jesus and his Spirit (Rocío F. ES).



WYD 2023 gives a vision of how young people from all over the world share the same faith and believe in the same values, a meeting where you can see the feelings on the surface and that if you live it to the fullest it will mark you forever. (Marco Daniel. ES)



It has been a "sending". I feel that God is calling me to follow him and to pass on my faith, it was something I already felt, but I was able to reaffirm it. The words of Pope Francis continue to ring in me: I am not afraid and I will get up as many times as it takes to continue along this path. (Carla Benlloch. ES)

The days spent in Sigüenza were rich and very intense. The idea of not being alone but of being part of a Family gave us hope and the desire to build and plan to be for our young people ever more credible signs, words and gestures of Brother Gabriel's charism (Greta, Chiara and Br. Marco. IT).



WYD has been a gift, an incredible opportunity to share with Christians from all over the world. I have experienced God's mercy and I have found God in these more than one and a half million people. (Carlos O. ES)



An experience that has marked my life. Connecting with young people from all over the world, realising the immensity and transcendence of God's love; meeting a Pope who is a friend, understanding and empathetic, who speaks to me face to face... has motivated me to take all this experience into my daily life and not just to keep what happened at the event. (María Pía. UR)



"Called to walk together in a participatory style"