

Name:

DAY # 1

5th Grade
Religion
(Blizzard Bag)
DAY #1

(Only complete if we must go NTI)

Instructions:

- **Read the article: Begin by reading the article about the history of World Youth Day.**
 - **Research online: Use the article and the internet to answer the questions that follow.**
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What Is World Youth Day?

World Youth Day (WYD) is a special event celebrated by young Catholics from all over the world. It's not just a single day, though—it's a gathering that lasts several days and happens every few years. At WYD, young people come together to pray, learn, celebrate their faith, and meet the Pope. The event is like a giant festival of faith, with music, prayers, and activities focused on growing closer to God.

How Did It Start?

World Youth Day began in 1985 with Pope John Paul II, one of the most beloved Popes in modern history. He believed young people were very important to the Church and wanted to give them a special way to gather and share their faith. That year, he invited youth from around the world to come to Rome for Palm Sunday. Thousands came, and the event was such a success that Pope John Paul II decided to make it an official celebration.

The first official World Youth Day was held the next year, in 1986, in Rome. Since then, it has been hosted in cities all over the world, including Sydney, Australia; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Kraków, Poland; and Lisbon, Portugal.

What Happens at World Youth Day?

At World Youth Day, millions of young people gather for many activities. There are:

- **Catechesis sessions:** These are classes where bishops and priests teach about the Catholic faith.
- **Prayer services:** Youth pray together, attend Mass, and reflect on God's love.
- **Cultural events:** Music, performances, and festivals from different countries highlight the diversity of the Catholic Church.
- **The final Mass:** The event ends with a large outdoor Mass, often attended by the Pope and millions of people.

Why Is It Important?

World Youth Day helps young Catholics feel connected to the global Church. It shows them they are part of a big family that stretches across every continent. The event encourages them to live out their faith and make a difference in the world.

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Fun Fact!

At the 1995 World Youth Day in Manila, Philippines, over 5 million people attended the final Mass. It's considered one of the largest gatherings in human history!

World Youth Day continues to inspire young Catholics everywhere, reminding them of Pope John Paul II's words: "Do not be afraid! Open wide the doors to Christ!"

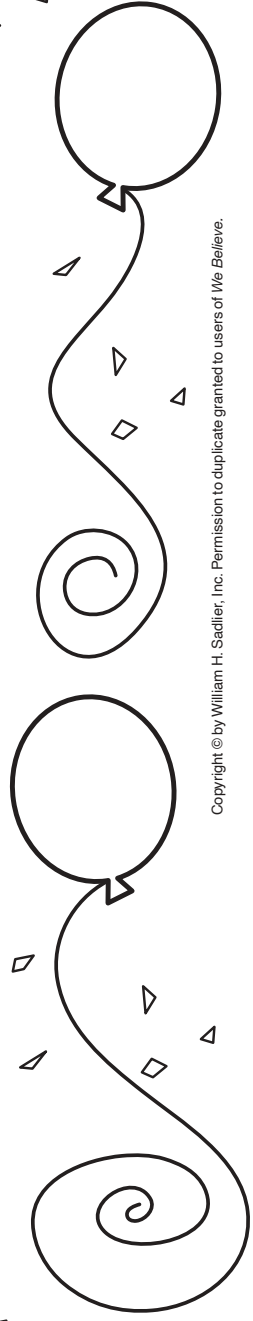
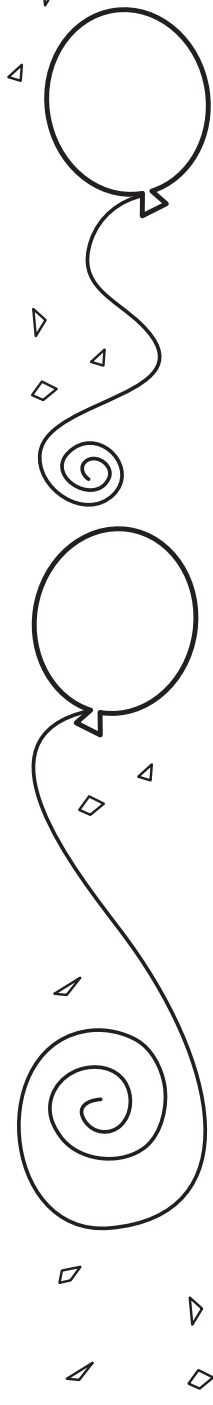
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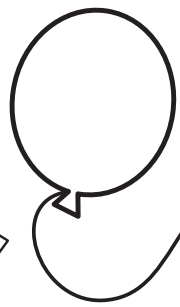
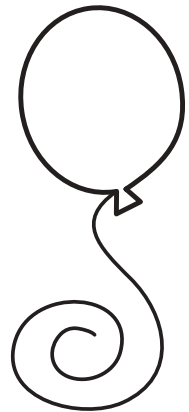


When and where will the next World Youth Day be celebrated?

What would be a good slogan for World Youth Day?

What do you think it might be like to go to World Youth Day?

What sorts of things do you think you would like to talk about with other Catholic youths from all over the world?



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