
The 2027 World Youth Day will take place in Seoul. Koreans erupt in joy at Campo da Graça

(from Lisbon) Young Koreans erupted in joy at Campo da Graça. They had been expecting it. Word had been in the air for some time. They had been preparing for this dream to come true. Now it has been officially announced: the next WYD in 2027 will be in Korea.

“Young Koreans, especially the youngest, children and teenagers, are looking forward to a message of hope, and the Pope is the only person who can give this message.”

The youth of Seoul are happy. In fact, they are overjoyed. More than 150 young pilgrims travelled from parishes in the Korean capital. They visited Fatima and Santiago de Compostela before arriving in Lisbon, where they say they had “an intense experience of spirituality.” Se Young Eum is 18 years old. “We are looking forward to seeing the Pope and the young people at the WYD in Korea. Ours is a small country, so it is a joy for us to be able to promote it among young people all over the world.” She says that Korea is a country of great material wealth, “but the young people,” she adds, “are desperate. They suffer from loneliness. They feel the burden of a culture of extreme competition that compels us from a very young age to attend the best school in order to get the best job, as if a job were a guarantee of a good life. But young people in Korea are not happy. It has one of the highest suicide rates in the world. Young people are suffering from depression. We expect the Pope to speak words that will bring us true happiness.”



[“Korea is looking forward to this message of hope and joy.”](#)



But an open wound remains. The Korean peninsula is divided. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of the three-year Korean War. The armistice was signed on 27 July 1953. It established the division of the country into two states, with a demilitarised zone along the 38th parallel. **Upon his arrival in Seoul in 2014, Pope Francis dedicated his first remarks on Korean soil to the reconciliation of the peninsula.**

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