# *“Are we not perhaps all afraid in some way? If we let Christ enter fully into our lives, if we open ourselves totally to him, are we not afraid that He might take something away from us? . . . No! If we let Christ into our lives, we lose nothing, nothing, absolutely nothing of what makes life free, beautiful and great. Only in this friendship is the great potential of human existence truly revealed. And so, today, with great strength and great conviction, I say to you, dear young people: Do not be afraid of Christ! He takes nothing away, and he gives you everything. When we give ourselves to him, we receive a hundredfold in return. Yes, open, open wide the doors to Christ – and you will find true life. Amen.”* ― Pope Benedict XVI

Dear (Potential Partner),

## In relation to Pope Benedict’s words, the Lord’s recent invitation in my life has presented me with an incredible opportunity to allow Christ to enter more fully into my life. Summer 2023, I will be traveling with 5 million other young Catholics to Lisbon, Portugal for World Youth Day to experience a trip of a lifetime. I am blessed to be taking this trip with [insert how you are associated with St. Mary Life Teen, why you want to make the trip with LT, briefly describe your life status now/where you will be in the summer]

Since the first World Youth Day in 1986 with St. John Paul II, young people from all over the world have continued to make this pilgrimage every 3 years in various locations to meet the Pope, celebrate youth in an expression of the universal Church and an intense moment of evangelization for the youth of the world. I am also getting the opportunity to travel to **Poland** before WYD for 5 days to see the miraculous image of the Black Madonna, Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camps, visiting the cells of St. Maximilian Kolbe, and praying with St. Theresa Benedict of the Cross (Edith Stein) as well as visiting the hometown of Pope St. John Paul II. We will get the chance to pray with his relics in his home parish.[insert why you personally want to go on this trip, what you hope to gain spiritually, culturally, be concise but heartfelt]

With this being said, in my current state of life, I am reliant on the generosity of others to make this incredible pilgrimage possible. So, in this letter, I ask for your generous consideration. I ask for you to consider supporting me by being a part of the prayerful and financial means by which I can pursue this God-given invitation.

I am excited by the possibility and potential of partnering in our Church’s universal call to gather, and I am honored to share with you the call He has placed upon my heart. In order to better elaborate upon this exciting trip, [I will be reaching out via telephone within the next week or so].

I keep you in my prayers, and I thank you for your time and consideration!

In Christ,

(Your Name)

Logo

Description automatically generated with low confidence

**Phone Number:** (###) ###-#### **E-mail Address:** (your e-mail here)

**Elements of a Support Raising Letter**

**Purpose**: To communicate to potential support partners that you are going to World Youth Day but are looking for financial support in order to fund your pilgrimage.

Components:

* Greeting
* Share your desire & call to attend 2023 pilgrimage to WYD
  + Give a brief background/brief blurb for/about World Youth Day.
  + Describe why you want to go & what you will get to do there
  + Show excitement and passion!
* Indicate why you’re contacting them: You are in need of their assistance.
  + It’s not all about finances, but don’t neglect to mention finances.
  + Let them know to expect your phone call (include time frame).
* Closing
  + Be sure to include contact info!

Other Tips:

* Keep it brief – no more than one page! You will share more in the phone call and follow-up meeting.
* Have someone else read it over for spelling and grammar.
* Check yourself not to have an apologetic mindset.
* Know your audience, and WRITE AS YOURSELF.
  + E.g. Don’t try to sound overly professional for its own sake, especially with family or people who know you well.