

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2023 – FINDING COMMON GROUND

(From *Rivier Today*, Fall 2023)



Rivier students and staff made a pilgrimage to Lisbon, Portugal, this summer for World Youth Day. Joining more than 354,000 pilgrims from around the world, Rivier community members celebrated their faith and the joy of finding common ground in a place and space dedicated to connection and spiritual growth.

A pilgrimage is a journey, most often to a distant land and undertaken on foot, where a person goes in search of new and meaningful experiences of self, others, and their faith. This 10-day pilgrimage offered participants a global view of community and opportunities to engage in meaningful workshops, discussions, and prayer. The pilgrimage culminated in a Mass celebrated by Pope Francis on August 6, 2023, as part of World Youth Day, which drew 1.5 million worshippers.

Jonathan Rudy '25 summarized the Pope's message, "As Catholics, we need to welcome everyone and not reject anyone from our faith. No matter where we come from, what language we speak—we should go throughout the world in peace and love."

Students' reflections on their experiences included a greater understanding of their individual capabilities, new perspectives on global citizenship, and a deepening of their faith. ■