

BRAGA: EUROPEAN YOUTH CAPITAL 2012

GREETINGS OF THE ARCHBISHOP PRIMATE TO ALL YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE OCCASION OF THE EVENT

Dear Young People!

It is with immense joy the Church of Braga joins every one of you visiting our city this year as Braga is inaugurated as European Youth Capital 2012.

At a controversial time for the younger generation, there are many challenges currently facing you and it is understandable that you might view the future with some apprehension. As a result of the technological revolution, modern culture, media and broadcasting invade our privacy. Increasing urbanization accentuates this trend and subjectivity is now seen as a value. In the current climate, many young people are unable to look to the future. Without a goal in life, some young people focus on sensation seeking and excitement. This hides the deeper meaning of life, making you the poorer for it. At the same time, many of you are exhausted by the chaos that these feelings have created. You realize that they do not solve your problems or provide answers to the meaning of life. You are not the problem. The Church understands your dilemma and recognizes you as creative individuals in many areas of life such as the arts, music, poetry and sport. So it is in you that society places its hopes for the future, as the builders of peace and justice.

During 2012 it is with hope that Europe and, in particular, the city of Braga, continues to look to you as essential partners in promoting peace, hope and solidarity. Accordingly, it intends to create space for dialogue, reflection and expression of the ideals that allow you to overcome the indifference that characterizes modern society.

The city of Braga and Pilgrim Church welcome you and invite you to enjoy the diversity of experiences that the European Youth Capital will provide you with this year. In turn, we hope that you will be inspired to promote true ideals and enduring values. You can rely on our friendly presence and, in return we hope that you will offer us a taste of your enthusiasm and joy for life, as Benedict XVI said: "The Church needs your living faith and the strength of your hope."

The Church of Braga, through its parishes and ecclesiastical movements, is actively preparing to receive you, so that together we can renew and share experiences. We have prepared, with much love and dedication, some initiatives. I hope you may see in them an assurance that we believe in you. By joining hands together, we can build a happy and fulfilling future.

Braga, 14-01-12

+ Jorge Ortega, A. P.