

LIVING MAGIS 2023 PORTUGAL

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MAGIS 2023

Creating a hope-filled future

Where we are

Pope Francis' announcement at the World Youth Day in Panama in 2019 that the next WYD would be in Portugal filled us with joy and immediately set us dreaming of the Pope coming to our country. In particular, the Jesuits and the Ignatian Family in Portugal began to dream about MAGIS 2023.

MAGIS 2023 has as its motto to create a hope-filled future. Young people are the protagonists of this future-oriented creation and the Society of Jesus has chosen to accompany them in one of its current Apostolic Preferences. In fact, all four Preferences have youth at their center.

At the end of 2021, Pope Francis in his message on World Youth Day said to young people: *"The whole world has had to face the suffering caused by the loss of so many loved ones and by social isolation. The health emergency has also prevented you, young people - by nature projected outwardly - from going out to go to school, to university, to work, to meet each other. You found yourselves in difficult situations, which you were not used to managing. Those who were less prepared and lacked support felt disoriented. In many cases, family problems arose, such as unemployment, depression, loneliness and addictions; not to mention the accumulated stress, the tensions and outbursts of anger, the increase in violence. But, thank God, this is not the only side of the coin (...) We have seen many young people fighting for life, sowing hope, defending freedom and justice, being peacemakers and bridge builders. What great potential you have in your hands! What strength you carry in your hearts!"*

(World Youth Day, November 21, 2021)

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CREATING A HOPE-FILLED FUTURE

No other age struggles to find creative ways to be with God and with others as much as the young; no other age has such a predisposition to struggle for justice and solidarity in our society. Although young people are the most likely victims of poverty and exclusion and they are the ones who have to deal with the consequences of the way present generations care for the Common Home, they are the "hope of a new unity for fragmented and divided humanity," they are the ones who can create a hope-filled future to find "together the joy of the fraternal embrace between peoples and between generations."

(Pope Francis' Message for WYD 2023)

With MAGIS 2023, we hope that young people will deepen their way of following Jesus and being in the Church, strengthen their commitments, make a synodal, ecclesial and universal journey; we hope that they will finish the ten days with their eyes focused on Jesus and their hearts firm in this goal of building together a hope-filled future.

Be MAGIS

This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every fatherhood, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of Christ, which is beyond knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God. Glory be to him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely MORE than we can ask or imagine; glory be to him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Amen.

Ephesians 3:14-21

We were created for MORE: more than we have already achieved, more than we already possess, more than we desire. Each day we are created to go MORE in love and service to our brothers and sisters, to live MORE committed to society and the Common Home, to live MORE within the Heart of God. Thus, the desire for MORE that dwells within us is concretized in love and service, starting from the encounter with God.

This MAGIS is not according to our measure, but according to the measure of the Heart of Christ. Christ is the true measure of each of us. It is He Who frees us from our little "measures", from our inertias, from the habits that settle us, from immediate satisfactions, from our selfishness and isolation.

No other measure but Christ Poor and Humble can truly fill us, satisfy us, or fulfill us. It is not our dreams, nor our desire for greatness, that awaken in us this invitation to MORE, but the One in us who can do immeasurably MORE than we ask or imagine.

To live the journey of MAGIS is to make the decision to walk a new path of freedom and gratuity in love and service; it is to desire and choose what MORE leads us to God and to our brothers and sisters; it is to seek and find God in all things in order to love and serve in everything.

Through the **MAGIS Experiences** we will pray, live and work together in an international community with a specific mission; we will discover together how we can build God's Church with our differences and peculiarities, with our gifts and desires; we will let ourselves be transformed by our lived experience with others, in service to life and to those most in need.

Through **MAGIS Circles** we will share our daily experience with others; discover MORE about ourselves and the world we live in, in order to live MORE committed to those around us. In listening and sharing each day, we experience a synodal and universal journey.

Through the **MAGIS Prayers** we take time for a daily encounter with God, with ourselves, and with the group, recognizing each day the passage of God in our lives. In this way we find God in everything we live in order to MORE love and serve.

Through the **MAGIS Eucharist**, we celebrate our encounter with the Risen Jesus by listening to the Word and the breaking of the Bread, we give thanks together for the gift of each day, and we are sent out to be "broken Bread" for all by giving our lives with Jesus and like Jesus.

Living MAGIS 2023 should lead each participant to **create** in their daily lives a hope-filled future, to **discern** the paths where the Spirit is guiding our world and the Church, to **promote** in our daily lives the culture of closeness and encounter; to **see** the reality with depth and hope, as others and ourselves; to **recognize** God's presence in reality in a new way, to say YES, like Mary, to the MAGIS challenges that life offers; to set out "in haste" and to do so with others in communion with the Church, to commit ourselves to the care of our Common Home and to building a more just and human world.

MAGIS 2023 youth are people who find in Jesus the way to happiness and are willing to give their lives as He did, they desire and choose only what leads them to God and to their brothers and sisters, and they want IN ALL THINGS TO LOVE AND TO SERVE.