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Mon Jul 21, 2008

World Youth Day at Martyr's Shrine

AUTHOR: NICOLE MILLION, THE MIRROR

Date: Jul 08, 2008

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The grounds at Midland's Martyrs' Shrine will be full of young people next week as they celebrate World Youth Day.

Steve Parrotte, assistant director of the Martyrs' Shrine, said the event is to make the World Youth Day experience available on a smaller scale for people who aren't able to travel to Australia for the main event.

Parrotte said they are expecting close to 1,000 young people to be camping on the grounds for the four-day event, which will include a taped showing of highlights from the event in Sydney, Australia, live entertainment and guest speaker Marc Kielburger, co-founder of Save The Children.

This is the first time Martyr's Shrine has hosted the event in conjunction with World Youth Day.

"We're offering this for people who can't afford to make the trip, or it's too far or too expensive," he said, noting the general public is also welcome to attend.

The Office of Catholic Youth (OCY) for the Archdiocese of Toronto, which is sponsoring the event, will also be offering special screenings of animated film *The Story of Lydia*.

The film will show youth group members and youth ministers how the story can complement their existing youth ministry initiatives by serving as an educational and fundraising resource through outreach to the younger members of their Parishes.

John Dawson, program coordinator OCY, The Archdiocese of Toronto said, "We believe that when young people get involved in active ministry to other members in their parish families, they help strengthen the very foundation of the Church. *The Story of Lydia* is a unique and entertaining way of helping to realize this."

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