

# WYD Official Hymn 2019 will encourage the youth of the whole world.

**PANAMA, JULY 3th OF 2017.** With tropical rhythms of Panamanian culture and inspired by the event theme "Behold the handmaid of the Lord, let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1,38), the official hymn of the XXXII World Youth Day Panama 2019 was presented during the "Cena de Pan y Vino" – a traditional annual event in the Archdioceses of Panama to raise funds for the San José Major Seminary.

The Archbishop of Panama, José Domingo Ulloa Mendieta, said: "This hymn expresses the mission to which we are called, as disciples and missionaries in these times, following the example of the Virgin Mary". He added, "We are excited to make this song available to young people around the world, so when they sing, they may find joy and allow themselves to be transformed by God."

The song was composed by Abdiel Jiménez, a catechist and psalmist of the Cristo Resucitado (Resurrected Christ) Parish in San Miguelito, Panama City. He is also the author of liturgical song and participates in various choirs. He graduated from the School of Religious Sciences of the Universidad Santa María La Antigua (USMA).

This hymn was chosen through a selection process that publicly called for proposals. A jury, comprised of renowned professionals from the music industry, narrowed down the selection of 56 songs to three finalists. The Executive Committee for WYD, along with the participation of the Dicastery for the Laity, the Family and the Life in Rome, selected Mr. Jiménez's composition as the official hymn.

A local musical production team of seasoned specialists worked together to arrange and produce the official version of the song. Aníbal Muñoz, Carlos Samaniego and Ricky Ramírez collaborated to bring forth the hymn to the world.

The World Youth Day is a gathering that brings together young people from around the world with each other and the Pope in a festive, religious and cultural atmosphere, which displays the vitality of the Church and affirms the contemporary message of Jesus Christ. It is held every three years and the last one took place in Krakow in 2016. WYD Panama 2019 will be from January 22 to 27, 2019 in Panama City.

The aim of WYD is to encourage a personal encounter with Christ, who transforms our lives; to promote peace, unity and fraternity among the peoples and nations of the world, through the youth as ambassadors to all humankind.