

Mary’s Meals International Youth Gathering 2022

Brief

Version date:

27/05/2022

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| **Background** |
| Mary’s Meals has an annual presence at Mladifest (Medjugorje Youth Festival) which runs from 1-6 August each year. This is one of the most important times for the Mary’s Meals family as it has hugely contributed to the growth of our movement over the years. Because of this, many of our young volunteers attend the Festival each year and contribute to our presence through supporting the efforts of the team in Medjugorje as volunteers.  As many young people from the Mary’s Meals family attend the Festival, it is a unique opportunity for us to gather to meet and collaborate with one another. Therefore, in tandem with Mary’s Meals Medjugorje, Affiliate Development will be organising the first **Mary’s Meals International Youth Gathering 2022** at this year’s Mladifest.  Participants will get the opportunity to network with other young people from across the Mary’s Meals family, hear inspiring talks, take part in various interactive activities and feed into how we can best engage young people in the mission of Mary’s Meals going forward.  There will also be other Mary’s Meals event taking place during the week of the Festival and attendees will be encouraged to support the Mary’s Meals presence at Mladifest. |
| **Event Specifics** |
| **Date & Time:** 1st of August 9.30-3pm(A simple lunch will be provided)  **Location:** Cesarica Hotel, Medjugorje |
| **Target Audience** |
| **Age Range:** 16-25  Participants who are attending the event should be those already engaged with Mary’s Meals within their National Affiliates, so that we can thank them for their contribution and allow for meaningful discussion around Mary’s Meals youth engagement. |
| **Event Objectives** |
| * To create a space for some of the most engaged young people across the Mary’s Meals family to connect, form international friendships, learn and collaborate with one another * For the leaders within Mary’s Meals to have the opportunity to thank our young volunteers, inspire them with great talks and to provide them with new ways to stay connected to the Mary’s Meals global movement * To further connect our young volunteers to Mary’s Meals as a fruit of Medjugorje, to mobilise the volunteers into supporting our presence at Mladifest and allow them to shape future presentations * To develop a strong foundation for the creation of future global youth initiatives and allow the attendees to feed into our plans for meaningfully engaging young people in the work of Mary’s Meals |
| **Key Elements of Gathering** |
| * ‘Icebreakers’/Games * Talk and Q&A with Magnus * Talk and Q&A with Programmes representative * Lunch together – opportunity for networking and forming friendship * Focus groups/brainstorming sessions * Opportunity to meet key leaders from across the Mary’s Meals family and other young volunteers from different countries * Preparing together for Mary’s Meals Mladifest presentation |
| **Other MM Mladifest Events** |
| **Mary’s Meals presentation during Mladifest Programme**  Participants will be invited to join the Mary’s Meals presentation on stage to show the diversity of the Mary’s Meals global family. There may also be the opportunity to support the presentation in some way. Date/time TBC.  **Time of thanksgiving and Prayer for Mary’s Meals**  There will be the opportunity to participate in a time of prayer and thanksgiving for the work Mary’s Meals at the Mary’s Meals Information Centre during one of the evenings of the Youth Festival with the rest of the family. Date/time TBC.  **Climbing of Apparition Hill**  On one of the mornings of the Youth Festival we will climb Apparition Hill as a Mary’s Meals family to pray for the mission. Date/time TBC. |
| **Event Registration** |
| If you are aware of young people travelling from your National Affiliate who would like to attend the Youth Gathering, please email [medjugorje@marysmeals.org](mailto:medjugorje@marysmeals.org) so that we can take numbers into account for planning purposes. Also, any young person who is under the age of 18 must have the attached parental consent form signed and returned to the email above to be permitted to attend the event.  If you have any questions regarding event, please don’t hesitate to get in contact with [calum.macfarlane-barrow@marysmeals.org](mailto:calum.macfarlane-barrow@marysmeals.org) |