



Dear Friends,

I am delighted and happy to be part of this wonderful and spiritual celebration of the 20 Years Anniversary of Liên Đoàn Nữ Vương Hòa Bình - Sydney. Twenty years of hard work and dedication in proclaiming, witnessing as well as living out the Good News of Jesus Christ our Savior and Brother.

With heartfelt gratitude I wish to express my deep thanks to many of you for keeping the flame of faith burning and burning brightly for the last 20 years in this Southern Land of the Holy Spirit - Australia. I am confident that with the help of the Holy Spirit this flame will continue to burn more fervently in our community and the Archdiocese of Sydney.

Over the last 20 years the Liên Đoàn NVHB have done so much for the Vietnamese community and the Archdiocese of Sydney. The work of Huynh Trưởng (youth leaders) is amazing and continues to amaze me. Every Sunday over one hundred of Huynh Trưởng come to different parishes to look after the faith of our children from kindergarten to year 12 and to bring them the reality of God's presence in their lives. I wish to thank the 'cựu Huynh Trưởng' from the earliest days. They will continue to be the foundation and the corner stone of the Church.

We must first thank God for his love, blessings and for bringing us to this part of the world; where we can truly experience the true freedom, opportunities and liberties that this country offers. We must also thank the people of Australia for their love, support and generosity for welcoming our people into their country with open heart.

The theme of the World Youth Day 2008 soon to come is '*you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witness.*' (Acts 1:8)

WYD is one of the most successful events for renewing and strengthening the faith of young people throughout the world. WYD is a time and opportunity for young people throughout the world to come together to reflect on the love of Christ for them and through the power of the Holy Spirit they will go out to the ends of the world to proclaim that Jesus is the only Son of God who is the way, the truth, and the life (Jn 14:6).

WYD08 is not merely a time for us to open our hearts and minds to welcome our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, and hundreds of thousands of young people around the world but also it is a time for us to open our hearts and minds to receive the power of the Holy Spirit, the power of Christ's truth, love, forgiveness, compassion, peace and harmony. I believe that the Holy Spirit will transform our hearts and minds so that we may become God's instruments in the contemporary world.

I ask you all, my young friends, to continue our journey and carry out the work that we have begun. I believe that with the help of the Holy Spirit, we will bring it to completion.

Yours in Christ,
Fr Liem Duong.

