



Press Release

No. 1 of 2017

Our Lady at the center of the World Youth Day 2019 logo

Panama, May 14 2017.- Ambar Calvo, a twenty-year-old Architecture student from Panama, won the World Youth Day (WDY) logo contest. The logo was selected among 103 entries that were evaluated by a group of Graphic Design and Marketing professionals. The three best logos were evaluated by the WYD Executive Committee 2019 and the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life in Rome. His Holiness Pope Francis announced that the global event will take place January 22 to 27, 2019 in Panama.

Monsignor José Domingo Ulloa Mendieta, Archbishop of Panamá, explained he felt excited and pleased with the talent of the youth of Panama, as the design that Ambar created «captures the message we wish to send to the youth of the world —the smallness of our country and the greatness of our heart, open to all, held by the hand of Our Lady, who is a model of youth and courage, commitment and generosity, especially when she said YES to God’s call».

«The Youth of the world represent the moral and human reserve of our societies, as they are able to transform all, positively, and by risking themselves just as Mary from Nazareth, a teenage girl herself did, if we are able to teach them to love as Jesus taught us all», declared the Panamanian Archbishop.

Ambar Calvo said that since she was twelve years old she has had an affinity for art as a form of expression, and that with this logo she wanted to show the «tenderness and surrender of Mary in her best scene: her *fiat*, when she said “thy will be done”».

The young Architecture student thanked the nuns of her school Pureza de Maria, who inspired her to develop her artistic talent, professionally and personally, and motivated her to participate in the logo contest.

Ambar’s logo includes the Canal de Panamá, which symbolizes the pilgrims’ path through Mary to find Jesus. The logo also shows the Isthmus of Panama as the home of WYD 2019, the Pilgrim Cross, the silhouette of Mary at the moment she says «Thy will be done» and small white dots that represent both Mary’s crown and pilgrims from each continent.

Another symbolic element of the logo is the heart-shaped letter «M» that refers to the Panamanian theme «Bridge of the World, Heart of the Universe» and also suggests that the name of Mary and her motherly heart leads the pilgrim to his son, Jesus.

World You Day is a worldwide event summoned by his Holiness the Pope and that brings together the youth of the world.