

run4unity 2012

Hundreds of thousands of youth are organizing this third worldwide relay race

sponsored by the Young for Unity of the Focolare Movement.

Young people of different ethnicities, cultures and religions, all running to give witness to their commitment to peace and unity by crossing some of the planet's significant places

Saturday May 12, 2012, 10am - 4pm
Youth from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, Wisconsin
will gather at Timothy Christian School, Elmhurst
10 am - registration
10:30 - workshops and service projects
1 pm - program and games
3-4 pm - run/jog/walk 4 unity

As we travel around the globe, we see the excitement building up as the final preparations for the Run4unity 2012 are underway. In the previous event, Run4unity 2008, more than **100,000 youth** participated in cities all over the world.

Many countries are involved: in Malta, the President will give the "go" to the race, with the participation of many Christian teens from various movements, as well as Muslim teens. In **Texas** the baton will be passed from city to city throughout the state. **Australia** is counting on the participation of the aboriginal population. In **Ireland**, invitations for the race were sent to all the schools throughout the country; in **Lithuania** the starting point will be in front of the Parliament building and go through the city streets.

This relay race will also cross significant places which are symbols of peace and unity. In the Holy Land, Jews, Muslims and Christians will run together at a national park on the Israeli coastline, which is an important archeological site and rich in history for all three religions. In **Luxembourg** they will race through Schengen, a region famous for the agreement to remove barriers among the countries of the European Union.

In the European continent, Run4unity 2012 will happen simultaneously with the event, "Together for Europe," a network among movements and Christian communities, which aims at giving new impetus to the continent's Christian soul. The common goals are summed up by saying "YES" to various values like peace, solidarity, life and the family, which the teens creatively expressed with mathematical symbols.

In many of the cities where Run4unity will take place, the teens will do a **flash mob**, forming together the word "**YES**!" in different languages. In many of the events, famous athletes and cultural leaders, as well as civic and religious authorities will address the participants.

Fiji Islands in the Pacific will start off the event, at 3 pm local time. Then at 4 pm, the virtual baton will pass to the next time zone, until it travels across the whole globe, with youth participating in events and projects that promote brotherhood, especially wherever people are poor, isolated or rejected by society.

On the web, from Facebook to YouTube, many messages, photos and videos will report on what each country is doing for this worldwide effort.

On the day of the event: May 12, all will be able to follow Run4unity through the web: via a real-time news feed over the 24 hour period. The youth are also organizing link-ups with many cities of the 5 continents, so as to follow the passing on the virtual baton that will be traveling across the world.

The Young for Unity is the youth branch of the Focolare Movement. They come from different cultures, languages, religions and ethnic backgrounds and at present 150,000 teens and children participate in its activities in 182 countries. Their goal is to live for a more united world by spreading peace, brotherhood and the culture of giving to as many people as possible. They try to overcome divisions within families, between generations, in their schools and in any environment they find themselves in. They promote various local and international events such as fund-raising, sports activities, concerts, projects for ecology, forums and marches for peace. Among those, "Let's Color our Cities with Love", bring new light to gray corners of their neighborhoods and towns.

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