

WYD 08 pilgrims give thanks

- *Theresa Dola, Catholic Communications Solomons*

A thanksgiving Eucharist was celebrated at Holy Cross parish, Honiara on 14th September, 2008 at 8.30am.



WYD 08 representatives from Ruavatu, Visale, Tangarare and the parish within Honiara city; Holy Cross parish, Honiara and Holy Family parish, Kukum gathered for the week end programme that commenced on 12th September, 2008.

The programme was organised to thank God for his protection, safe return and enjoyable experience throughout WYD 08.

Archbishop Adrian Smith sm, Archbishop of Honiara addressed the youths in the presence of invited guests and reminded them to carry their hope to the nation. “I was so proud to see our Solomon pilgrims behaving during the event, despite the challenges they faced”, he said. “I cannot forget our young people, invited by the Bishop of Lismore to lead the liturgy. They brought their little pan pipes to perform in church and it was amazing to see the entire congregation dancing to the harmonious sound of the pipes”, he said.

He thanked those who supported the young people for the air fair, especially the Government of Solomon Islands, the Australia High Commissioner, parents and public. “I was very happy to see such a number of young people from Solomon Islands to attend such an International event”, he said.



Mr. Jackson Meke, the WYD chairman acknowledged those who supported the youth during WYD 08. He gave a brief report on the event and the spoke on how money sponsored by the Government of Solomon Islands was spent. He said that the report will be finalized.

Guest of Honor, Governor General Sir Nathaniel Waena urged the young people to keep the WYD flame burning. “Fire cannot have a flame without firewood put together. This country depends on young people. Work together and build this nation”, he encouraged the young.

Four hundred young Catholics attended the WYD in Sydney Australia in July 2008.