

Dreams of “Roos” and Didgeridoos at World Youth Day

University Ministry students and staff were among a quarter-million registered pilgrims to share a sense of Catholic camaraderie “Down Under” during a two-week summer immersion to MAGiS ’08 and World Youth Day in Australia, where they communed with the pope, worked with Aboriginal children, and labored on a sheep farm in the outback.

The joint trip was a first for University of San Francisco students as a group, said Executive Director of University Ministry Donal Godfrey, S.J., who came up with the idea of the immersion to deepen students’ Catholic identification by being able to express their faith openly and joyfully, while avoiding a sense of being over or against or better than anyone else.

The theme of this year’s World Youth Day, which lasted from July 15 to July 20, came from the scriptures, Acts 1:8—“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses.”

Particularly memorable were the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI by boat into Sydney Harbor as he was greeted

by hundreds of thousands of young Roman Catholics; touring the streets of Sydney to witness the Stations of the Cross; and a three-hour pilgrimage through city streets and across Sydney Harbor Bridge for an evening vigil and Mass with the pope that culminated in a 250,000-person sleepover under the stars at the Royal Randwick Racecourse.

“Being a pilgrim on the trip was such an amazing experience, there was a unifying bond that I felt wherever I went, even on the plane ride home,” said sophomore Casey McKinnon.

Helping to drive her reflection was her experience at MAGiS ’08, a local immersion designed to foster Ignatian spirituality through service that was held just prior to the official kick-off of World Youth Day.

For some USF students, that meant working with Aboriginal children in impoverished Bowraville, Australia. For others, it meant dodging kangaroos on dirt roads to reach remote Koomooloo Station, a sheep ranch where students painted buildings, removed fence posts and fence wire, sheared sheep, and collected firewood. [USF](#)

Walkabout: Pilgrims take part in a three-hour walk through Sydney streets for an evening vigil with Pope Benedict XVI.



“Quote Me.”

Notable quotables from around campus

“Federal authorities initiated the real-estate boom by depressing mortgage-interest rates. Then they exacerbated conditions by refusing to adequately regulate mortgage-lending practices. The result: An unprecedented and unsustainable increase in real-estate values, egged on by greed, skullduggery, and tomfoolery.”

Michael Lehmann, professor emeritus of economics, in an op-ed piece that ran Sept. 16 in the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

“Our knowledge regarding what happens to the body with age is really changing. It used to be that the gold standard for physical performance was 20. But now you have people who are continuing to train and are pushing the age curve up.”

Karen Francis, assistant professor of exercise and sport science, quoted Aug. 22 in the *San Francisco Chronicle* in a story about older athletes at the Olympics.

“The purpose of education as this university sees it, and as I see it, is not to merely attain certain skills but to take those skills and go out and change the world for the better.”

Aaron Hahn Tapper, assistant professor of theology and religious studies and director of the Swig Program in Jewish Studies and Social Justice, quoted Sept. 18 in *Forward* about USF’s Jewish studies and social justice minor.

“A lot of these kids have been brought in from Myanmar, they’re from Cambodia, they’re from China, from Vietnam. They were brought for the purpose of being the play objects for tourists from all over the world. They would go to karaoke bars where they could find young kids and do things to these young kids that they would be in jail for, for doing back at home.”

David Batstone, professor of theology and religious studies, quoted during a Sept. 3 feature story on KGO-TV ABC 7 about the Erasmus program’s recent trip to Thailand to learn about the roots of human trafficking.

“The independent and the small business person are fighting a much steeper battle for sales in a shrinking market.”

Eugene Muscat, professor of business, quoted Sept. 23 in *BusinessWeek* about the holiday shopping season during this economic slump.