



## **ASIA/HONG KONG - "To be a happy youth": World Youth Day in Hong Kong responds to the Pope's exhortation, "Be glad in the Lord always!"**

Hong Kong (Agenzia Fides) - "Day Day Run Run – to be a happy youth" was the theme of World Youth Day celebrated at a diocesan level by the diocese of Hong Kong on 18 and 19 August, which was organized by the Commission for the Pastoral Youth Care. According to the Kong Ko Bao (the Chinese version of the diocesan bulletin), 110 young people between 15 and 35 years of age were the protagonists of this intense spiritual experience, which had the aim to "confirm one's Christian identity and transmit the Gospel of joy". In addition, the theme chosen by the organizers was in tune with Pope Benedict XVI's message - "Rejoice always in the Lord" (fil 4.4) - for the XXVII World Youth Day 2012. During the Mass of World Youth Day, which was celebrated in the parish of Our Lady of Good Counsel, young people confirmed their commitment to bring joy and happiness to all, through the witness of their faith and an intense spiritual life focused on the Eucharist. According to the Executive Secretary of the Commission for Pastoral Youth Care in Hong Kong, the purpose of the initiative was to "provide opportunities for young Catholics to find joy through the deepening of the knowledge of God, this enabled them to find the Love of God and the joy of being Christians," and now "they bring this Love and joy to others, especially to the poor, the marginalized minorities and the most vulnerable." (NZ) (Agenzia Fides 24/08/2012)