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"This Event Could Change My Life"

Rashid Abrey-Puentes has come to Madrid from Kazakhstan to attend World Youth Day.

Baptized when he was 15, he is now 18 and is studying architecture in Almaty.

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Why have you come to Madrid?

The main reason for coming is to enrich myself spiritually in order to better live my faith and get closer to Christ. Seeing the Pope and hearing

his words will help strengthen my faith, and it may be that this event changes my life.

What are your hopes for World Youth Day?

For me this trip is a great opportunity to see more of the Church and also to get to know Spanish culture, which has always attracted me. And, of course, to meet many young people from all over the world, and take part in an event where people from different cultures feel united by the same faith.

What do you find most impressive about the Pope and about World Youth Day?

What most impresses me is that people from different countries and cultures can be united and share their experiences about their Christian life. This is a meeting with the Pope, our common Father. I am

sure that the Pope's words are going to enkindle the flames of Christ's love in the hearts of these young people and strengthen our faith.

What challenges do young people face in your country?

Certainly young people in my country face many difficulties: deceitful doctrines, immoral propaganda.... But World Youth Day can open the eyes of young people and help them to ground their lives on moral principles.