

## Press release

# Online with Saints: Meet the Saints on social media!

*New app launched at WYD*

*Panama 21 January 2019. Imagine you could meet and greet a saint, which saint would you choose? The new initiative **Online with Saints** takes a fully modern approach in helping people (re)discover Catholic Saints as great sources of inspiration. One hundred contemporary questions by young people are answered with the help of the saints, using a printed book, mobile app, videos, and social media. **Online with Saints** has been developed by the international multimedia initiative **Tweeting with GOD**, and launched at World Youth Day Panama.*

### # Friends of God

Every participant in World Youth Day (WYD) will receive in their pilgrims' kit a booklet about the nine patron saints of WYD Panama. It is a sample of the one hundred questions answered in the book *Online with Saints*, published in 2019 by Freedom Publishers, Melbourne. Many translations are in preparation. Every double page answers a burning question. Readers are helped to grow in their relationship with God and learn about the faith through the fascinating experiences, challenges, heroism, holiness – but also failures of some of the greatest friends of God. On the first page, Pope Francis encourages young people to discover the saints as friends and companions on their path to God.

### # App: Virtual encounter

*Online with Saints* (#OnlineSaints) offers a virtual encounter with saints from all around the world through an application for the mobile phone. This free app contains the social media profile of many saints, with interesting facts, quotes, prayers, and captivating stories of personal faith, love, and sacrifice. Scanning the image of the saint in the book allows them to tell their story in the first person through a video. One can even take a selfie with the saint of choice. Obviously, users can share all their discoveries on social media.

### # Personal message to everyone

*Online with Saints* is written by father Michel Remery together with the team of the Tweeting with GOD (#TwGOD). Currently the book and other tools of #TwGOD are translated in over 20 languages worldwide. #TwGOD will be present at WYD in various ways. They can be found at the Vocation's Fair in Parque Omar (stand 5), and an event on Thursday 24 January, 3 p.m. at the Museo del Canal (<https://goo.gl/maps/rWfx8taQDv92>). Videos of the saints will be shown on the large screens at the main event. The booklet with the saints is distributed in five languages to all pilgrims.

Anyone can become a saint! Every saint is different, with their own unique personality and destiny. Each of them found their vocation in a different way – demonstrating that God has a special plan and individual vocation for each individual. Participants of *Online with Saints* are invited and helped to discern their own personal journey towards sanctity.

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*NOTE FOR THE PRESS - NOT FOR PUBLICATION*

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