

Who brings beauty, builds the future

The book collecting the presentations of the second International Conference organized by the *Joseph Ratzinger – Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation* is now available. The conference was organized nearly three years ago in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 8th and 9th November 2012.

Thanks to the help of the *Heralds of the Gospel*, who promoted the event together with the Pontifical Catholic University and the archdioceses of Rio, we have got a book that makes us reflect upon “What makes a man”. It had been proposed as the main topic of the Congress by the archbishop João Orani Tempesta, with the aim to prepare the Pope’s voyage to Brazil for the World Youth Day of 2013.

These two days of study and debate on contemporary topics during the pontificate of Benedict XVI wondered us. We didn't expect 134 Universities and more than 700 students and teachers from Latin America to participate in the meeting. We were impressed by their involvement, the importance of their interventions and the passion with which they worked.

As we all know Pope Benedict XVI wasn't in Brazil for the World Youth Day in 2013. Pope Francis went to Brazil and actively participated and spoke about the main topic of the event: the man, from the poorest and more isolated one, to the man who is secluded because he doesn't agree with the dominant ideas. To the young people standing in the boardwalk of Copacabana – and to all of us – he said: “We are all part of the Church and we have to become the builders of the Church and the protagonists of our history. Boys and girls, please: do not stand far from history. Be the protagonists and play the leading role. Go on and try to build a better world, a world of justice, love, peace, fraternity and solidarity.”

We have proposed the most significant presentations here with the aim to build the future with the help of Peter, – or whatever his name is – not only to remember the Conference. Building the future with Peter means that we become builders of the Church and the society with Him and open the doors to that beauty which changes and renews.

Msgr. Giuseppe A. Scotti
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