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Franciscan Sisters attend Madrid World Youth Day

Two Hankinson Franciscans made the pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, in August with some 50 other young sisters from the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious member-congregations. The CMSWR, one of the two U.S. organizations that officially represent consecrated women in Rome, received donations to send up to 60 young sisters from their congregations to WYD.

For Sister Maria Veronica Splonskowski, the trip was her first time to travel abroad. She powerfully experienced the oneness of the church in the familiarity of the liturgies they attended. Sister Mary Ruth Huhn, who had studied overseas and visited Poland before entering religious life, was happy for the chance to experience, again, the global Catholic community, as well.

For both of them, the Papal Mass and meeting Fargo Diocese's Bishop Samuel Aquila, Father Peter Sharpe and Father Chris Markman, there, were cause for joy.

"Only God can plan this," Sister Maria Veronica said. "No one could plan traveling to another country, walking along in the crowds we were in, and place yourselves on a train next to your bishop and priests from your home diocese."

The CMSWR website has a daily diary and many photos of the sisters' WYD activities at www.cmswr.org/wyd2011/wyd_events2011.html. For more information about the Franciscan Sisters of Dillingen in Hankinson, visit www.dillingenfranciscansusa.org.