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**MEMORABLE RETURN.** Pope Francis celebrates Mass on Copacabana Beach before an estimated 3 million pilgrims to close World Youth Day July 28.

Mario Tama/Getty Images

## 2013 in Review

### Pope Francis 'Comes Home' For World Youth Day Rio

**P**ope Francis presided over Mass before an estimated 3 million pilgrims at World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in July, capping his first visit to his home continent since his election as pope.

Other top world stories include two natural disasters in the Philippines, the beatification of 522 martyrs of the Spanish Civil War, an increased persecution of Christians by Muslim militants in the Middle East, the National Eucharistic Congress in Germany and rulings on marriage in France (where same-sex "marriage" was legalized, despite heavy popular support for marriage of one man and one woman) and Croatia (where traditional marriage was affirmed by popular vote).



### ONE MAN, ONE WOMAN.

Supporters of *La Manif Pour Tous* pro-marriage movement through the streets of Paris May 26. Parisian police expected up to 200,000 protesters to line the streets after France became the 14th country to legalize same-sex 'marriage' on May 18, but the number reached an estimated 1 million. Antoine Antoniol/Getty Images



**BESIEGED.** Coptic Christian woman Hawah and her daughter Miriam walk towards the destroyed altar inside the scorched interior of the Archangel Michael Church in Cairo, Egypt, Aug. 25. More than 60 churches across Egypt were burned and vandalized by Muslim vandals. Heidi Levine/Sipa Press

**YES TO MARRIAGE.** A voter casts a ballot at a polling station in Pula, western Croatia, Dec. 1. Croats voted to prohibit same-sex 'marriage.' The country's constitution defines matrimony as a union of a man and a woman. AP photo/Darko Bandic



**UNDER WATER.** An automobile tire floats past the flooded grotto at the Marian shrine of Lourdes, southwestern France, June 19. Heavy rains forced the closure of the pilgrimage site and the evacuation of pilgrims from nearby hotels. AP photo/Bob Edme



**BRINGING AID.** Men load food packages onto boats in Tacloban Nov. 18, following Typhoon Haiyan, which ripped through the Philippines in early November. It was one of the most powerful typhoons ever to hit land, leaving thousands dead and hundreds of thousands homeless. Chris McGrath/Getty Images



**SAD DAY FOR THE IRISH.** Pro-lifers pray the Rosary July 29. The next day, Ireland passed a law allowing abortion in cases where 'the life of the mother is at risk, including from suicide.' Niall Carson/PA Wire via AP Images



**BODY OF CHRIST.** Attendees of the Eucharistic Congress of Germany receive Communion at Mass. The gathering was held June 5-9 in Cologne, a previous site of World Youth Day. Oliver Berg/picture-alliance/dpa/AP Images



**MARTYRS.** Pope Francis beatified 522 more martyrs on Oct. 13, at Tarragona, Spain; among them is Eugenio Sanz-Orozco Mortera from Manila, Philippines, the first Filipino martyr of the Spanish Civil War. The ceremonies were presided by Cardinal Angelo Amato in Tarragona. CNA

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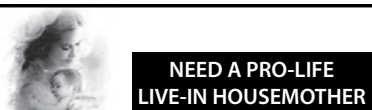
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