

News Release Regarding “Julia Youn of Naju”

We are grateful for the interest and support shown by people around the world for WYD Seoul 2027.

The Local Organizing Committee continues to receive inquiries regarding the person commonly known as “Julia Youn of Naju.” Claims and activities associated with her are also being disseminated internationally through social media, publications, and other channels.

We therefore wish to clarify the official position of the Catholic Church in Korea, as communicated by the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Korea.

The Archdiocese of Gwangju, which has ecclesiastical jurisdiction over the Naju area, investigated the matter and consulted the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith of the Holy See, now the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith. It subsequently determined that the alleged phenomena and the activities associated with them “have nothing to do with sound Christian spirituality.” The Archdiocese of Gwangju has publicly reaffirmed this position on several occasions.

Pilgrims are therefore urged to exercise particular caution and not to confuse social media posts, publications, or promotional material regarding “Julia Youn of Naju” with official information disseminated or endorsed by the Catholic Church in Korea.

Pilgrims should not visit that site believing it to be a shrine recognized by the Church or an official place of pilgrimage. They should also refrain from participating in any Mass, liturgy, sacramental celebration, or other religious event held there.

In 2008, the Archdiocese of Gwangju further clarified the canonical consequences of participating in such activities. In a formal decree, it stated that any member of the clergy, religious, or lay faithful who, contrary to the archbishop’s prohibition, “presides over or participates in the celebration of the sacraments or sacramentals in any so-called ‘oratory’ or on the ‘Hill of Our Lady of Naju’ incurs *latae sententiae* excommunication” — that is, an excommunication incurred automatically upon committing the act itself. The decree applies not only to the clergy, religious, and lay faithful of the Archdiocese of Gwangju, but to all members of the Catholic Church.

Those preparing for a pilgrimage to Korea, or seeking guidance on matters of faith, are encouraged to verify all relevant information through the official channels of the Local Organizing Committee for WYD Seoul 2027, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea, the relevant dioceses, or the Holy See.

Further information is available in the official documents of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea and the Archdiocese of Gwangju, accessible via the links below.

[Catholic Bishops' Conference of Korea — link]

<https://www.cbck.or.kr/en/News/20261270?search=naju&gb=subject>

<https://www.cbck.or.kr/en/News?gb=subject&search=naju>

[Archdiocese of Gwangju — link]

<https://www.gjcatholic.or.kr/file/partoral/4121?share=&cat1=106&page=2>

<https://www.gjcatholic.or.kr/file/partoral/4119?share=&cat1=106>

Local Organizing Committee for World Youth Day Seoul 2027