

Safety Tips

What happens if someone gets separated from the group?

If you get separated as your group is moving about the city, stay where you are. When the group realizes that you are missing, three or four people will be sent back to look for you. If it is possible, call the cell phone number of your guide or the JMJ Youth number for instructions. (There will be many volunteers all around the city. Ask if you can use their cellphone, or pop into a nearby call center/internet café if there is one in sight.)

If someone or a small group gets separated from the larger group at a major event, such as the Papal Vigil, they should try to reach their guide or group leader by phone. If you do not have a phone, look for a JMJ Youth Flag. Go to the flag. The guide associated with that group will be able to call your guide to let your group know where you are. Depending on the circumstances, you may need to take refuge with the other JMJ group for a while and make new friends until you can reconnect with your group. If you cannot find a JMJ Youth flag, ask anyone nearby you if you can use their phone to call your group leader or guide.

Every group should designate a regrouping point before entering the main events. Whether it is a church, a park, or a restaurant, it should be a familiar place the group knows to which they can return in the event of separation or chaos in the very large crowds.

If no one finds you after a few hours and you can't reach anyone by phone, make your way back to your hotel or lodging. You should have the hotel name, address and phone numbers with you at all times. You could ask any uniformed police officer or volunteer for directions. A taxi would also be able to take you directly back. If you go to the hotel, definitely call the guide to let him or her know.