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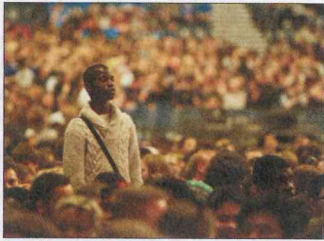
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Wembley gathering urges youngsters to find vocation



MAZUR/CATHOLICNEWS.ORG.UK

MORE THAN 8,000 young Catholics descended on Wembley Arena in London last Saturday for a gathering that celebrated the continuing impact of Pope Benedict's trip to Britain and looked ahead to the Olympic Games in London, writes Liz Dodd.

Flame 2012, the annual congress of the Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMfed), featured speakers who emphasised the Olympic values of respect, friendship and excellence. Olympians and Paralympians - including Stef Reid, who holds the World Long Jump Record (2010) and champion rower Debbie Flood - spoke about the importance of their Christian faith as they prepare for the Games this summer.

Three thousand attendees sent text messages committing themselves to work to change their communities following a plea from the Mizen family, whose son, Jimmy, was murdered in south London in 2008. Fr Christopher Jamison OSB, director of the National Office for Vocation, led the young people in silent prayer and invited them to ask God "what he wanted to show them", something he said had never before been done at Wembley Arena.

The event closed with Eucharistic Adoration led by the Archbishop of Westminster, Vincent Nichols, who asked the young people to embody the joy that comes with "living generously".