



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE SYNOD OF CILICIA
OF THE ARMENIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

Monday 13 December 1999

*Your Beatitude,
Venerable Brothers!*

Your steps have led you to the Pope's house to celebrate the Eucharist with him as a sign of full and perfect communion in faith. I am pleased to welcome you here, in the intimacy of this chapel which well expresses the sentiment of affection and brotherhood that binds me to you, Your Beatitude, and to the Bishops of the Armenian Catholic Church who have come here.

The Pope's house is your house. The Bishop of Rome and the Catholic Church open their arms to you to welcome you with joy. All your Church's sons and daughters are participating in spirit in this Eucharist. This communion, which is God's gift, is our strength. It is he who gives us his Body and Blood, which we will exchange as a sign of full sharing in the faith. To him, I entrust you, Your Beatitude, and the life of your Church.

May Mary, the holy Mother of God, the holy Armenian Bishops, monks and especially the martyrs accompany you in the first steps of your ministry and for all the time that God will grant you to serve Holy Church.