



The Holy See

***ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
TO THE PEOPLE OF CASTEL GANDOLFO
DURING HIS VISIT TO THE PONTIFICAL VILLAS***

Castel Gandolfo

Thursday, 5 May 2005

I have come today to meet you for the first time, dear friends of Castel Gandolfo. Thank you for coming and for your cordiality. The reason for my visit today is to make contact with the Apostolic Palace and the Pontifical Villas, where, God willing, I plan to spend the summer months as my Venerable Predecessors used to do. It is the first of many other appointments that I hope to have with you in your beautiful little town.

I greet the Secretary of State, Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Pastor of the Diocese of Albano, Bishop Marcello Semeraro, the Parish Priest of Castel Gandolfo, together with the priests who assist him and the entire parish community. I then greet the Director of the Pontifical Villas, Dr Saverio Petrillo, and those who work here, contributing to its daily upkeep. Lastly, I greet the Mayor and the Town Council, and through them I extend my gratitude to your town, always ready to welcome tourists and pilgrims. To all those who are inhabitants of Castel Gandolfo I wish to extend my most heartfelt best wishes for serenity and peace.

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