



The Holy See

***ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
TO THE STAFF OF THE PONTIFICAL VILLAS OF CASTEL GANDOLFO***

*Hall of the Swiss
Saturday, 30 September 2006*

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This year too, my summer stay in Castel Gandolfo is coming to an end. I thank the Lord for having been able to spend these months in serene relaxation in this most pleasant locality in the Alban Hills.

I extend my gratitude to each one of you, who in a certain way belong to the Pope's "family" when he is living at Castel Gandolfo.

Day after day, I have had the opportunity to appreciate your dedication and generosity. I thank you for this as I greet you all with affection.

In the first place, I greet Dr Saverio Petrillo, General Director of the Pontifical Villas, ever attentive and caring. I am also sincerely grateful to him for his courteous words to me on your behalf.

Next, I extend my gratitude to all who work in various capacities in the Pontifical Villas and I ask God to reward you, dear friends, for the dedication and fidelity with which you carry out the tasks entrusted to you. I willingly include your families and all your loved ones in my affectionate remembrance.

On my part, I assure you that I will not fail to pray for each one of you and for all your intentions, and I ask you to remember me in your prayers.

May the Lord, who is rich in goodness and mercy and who never lets those who trust in him go

without his help, always be your firm support.

May the Virgin Mary, whom we invoke in a special way in the month of October with the recitation of the Holy Rosary, watch over you with motherly protection. May she accompany you and your families at every moment.

With these sentiments, I bless you with affection, together with your relatives and all your loved ones.

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