



The Holy See

ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER JOHN PAUL II TO THE ITALIAN SECURITY OFFICERS

Friday, 1 September 2000

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It always gives me joy to be able to say "thank you", and every year my departure from Castel Gandolfo offers me an opportunity to do so. Included among the people I warmly thank are you, the officers of the Inspectorate of Public Security, the Police Commission, the Traffic Police, the Carabinieri and the Customs Officers.

This year your competent and attentive service has again enhanced my stay and activities here in Castel Gandolfo, and has also benefited the many pilgrims who came to meet me. I hope that you too have benefited, at least a little, from this climate which is certainly healthier and more relaxing than that of the big city.

I never forget that your mission is important and difficult, often dangerous and always tiring. It demands sacrifice and requires you to spend many hours away from your homes and families. For this very reason I ask the Lord to keep you safe and to grant peace to you and your loved ones. Thank you again for your discreet and effective presence.

As I entrust you to the protection of the Virgin Mary, *Virgo fidelis*, I cordially bless you and all your loved ones.

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