



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II
TO AN ECUMENICAL DELEGATION FROM FINLAND**

Monday, 19 January 2004

Dear Friends from Finland,

Once again this year I am pleased to welcome your Ecumenical Delegation on its visit to Rome for the feast of Saint Henrik, Patron of Finland. In this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, I wish to express my gratitude for the ecumenical progress made between Catholics and Lutherans in the five years since the signing of the *Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification*. A promising sign of this progress on our path to full and visible unity has been the establishment of a new dialogue group between Lutherans and Catholics in Finland and Sweden. It is my hope that Lutherans and Catholics will increasingly practise a *spirituality of communion*, which draws on those elements of ecclesial life which they already share and which will strengthen their fellowship in prayer and in witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Upon all of you I cordially invoke God's abundant blessings.