



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II
TO THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE ISLAMIC-CATHOLIC LIAISON COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, 20 January 2004

Dear Brother Bishop,

Distinguished Participants in the Meeting of the Islamic-Catholic Liaison Committee, Peace be with you! It is my pleasure to welcome you at the conclusion of your ninth annual meeting. Your committee, which facilitates communication between Christians and Muslims, was established during a time of great expectation for world peace. Unfortunately, this hope has not yet been fulfilled. In the face of the tragedies which continue to afflict humanity, it is all the more necessary to convince people that peace is possible. Indeed, it is a duty (cf. No. 4 *Message for the World Day of Peace*, 2004). I encourage you, and all leaders of religions, to promote a culture of dialogue, mutual understanding and respect. Upon you all, I invoke the abundant blessings of Almighty God.