

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE  
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE  
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLIS

# **BOLLETTINO**

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 0502

Venerdì 13.10.2006

Pubblicazione: Immediata

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## ◆ **LE UDIENZE**

LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

S.E. il Signor Romano Prodi, Presidente del Consiglio dei Ministri della Repubblica Italiana, con la Consorte, e Seguito;

Em.mo Card. Telesphore Placidus Toppo, Arcivescovo di Ranchi (India);

S.E. Mons. Emilio Patriarca, Vescovo di Monze (Zambia), in Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum";

Ecc.mi Presuli della Conferenza Episcopale di Zambia, in Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum".

Il Papa riceve nel pomeriggio:

Em.mo Card. William Joseph Levada, Prefetto della Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede.

[01419-01.01]

**VISITA AD LIMINA APOSTOLORUM DEI PRESULI DELLA CONFERENZA EPISCOPALE DELLO ZAMBIA**

Riportiamo di seguito il discorso che il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI ha rivolto agli Ecc.mi Presuli della Conferenza Episcopale dello Zambia, incontrati questa mattina e ricevuti in questi giorni, in separate udienze, in occasione della Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum":

**• DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE**

My dear Brothers in Christ,

I am pleased to welcome you, the Bishops of Zambia, to this fraternal encounter during your visit *ad Limina Apostolorum*. In a special way I thank the Most Reverend Telesphore George Mpundu, who has expressed your devotion to the Holy See and to me as Peter's successor. I am grateful for your good wishes, which I gladly reciprocate. Our conversations have led me to deeper appreciation of the Catholic Church in your country: her joys, her difficulties and her hopes. Through you I greet and embrace the clergy, religious and lay faithful of Zambia. Recently in Germany I had occasion to say: "As people of prayer filled with his light, we reach out to others and bring them into our prayer and into the presence of God, who will not fail to do his part" (*Cathedral of Saint Corbinian, Freising, 14 September 2006*). I encourage you therefore to urge your people to dedicate themselves to prayer and holiness, discovering the treasure of a life built on faith in Christ. May they invite all those whom they encounter to share that treasure!

The light of holiness that shines forth in those who have discovered this treasure is enkindled at the moment of baptism. In baptism Christ liberates the believer from the dominion of sin, freeing him from an existence filled with fear and superstition and calling him to a new life. "Beloved, we are God's children now ... and everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure" (*1 Jn 3:2-3*). Indeed, the Christian has placed his trust in Christ and can be ever confident that he hears his prayers and answers them. As you strive to prepare your people for lives of genuine holiness, be sure to instruct them in the value and the practice of prayer, especially liturgical prayer, where in a sublime way the Church is united with Christ the High Priest in his eternal intercession for the salvation of the world. Moreover, the Catholic Church encourages the faithful to practise popular forms of piety. Therefore, always teach your people the value of the intercession of the saints, who are the great friends of Jesus (cf. *Jn 12:20-22*), and particularly the special intercession of Mary, his Mother, who is always attentive to our needs (cf. *Jn 2:1-11*).

My dear Brother Bishops, I have no doubt that you will continue to devote your lives with generous love to God's people in Zambia. The Lord has chosen you to keep them and guide them on the way that leads to sanctity. Do so with wise advice, unwavering resolve and paternal affection. Saint Jerome in his Commentary on Saint Paul's Letter to Titus puts it this way: "Let the bishop practise abstinence with respect to all the troubles that can agitate the soul: let him not be inclined to anger or crushed by sadness and let him not be tortured by fear" (cf. vv. 8-9, *PL 26, 603b-42*). This is especially true in your dealings with your brother priests, who at times can be led astray by the many temptations of contemporary society. As pastors and fathers to your co-workers in the vineyard, you must always communicate to them the joy of serving the Lord with a proper detachment from the things of this world. Tell them that they are close to the Pope's heart and in his daily prayers. With you I encourage them to stand steadfast in the true faith and to look forward with living hope to the joyful possession of that undefiled, imperishable treasure, won for us by Jesus Christ (cf. *1 Pet 1:4*).

We believe that the Church is holy. When you urge your priests to live holy lives in accordance with their calling, when you preach generous love and fidelity in marriage and when you exhort everybody to practise the works of mercy, remind them of the Lord's own words: "You are the light of the world ... Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (*Mt 5:14-16*). Holiness is a divine gift, which manifests itself in love of God and love of neighbour. Dear Brothers, show your people the beautiful face of Christ by living a life of genuine love. Show Christ's compassion especially for the poor, for refugees, for the sick and for all who suffer. At the same time, in your teaching continue to proclaim the need for

honesty, family affection, discipline and fidelity, all of which have a decisive impact on the health and stability of society.

Your visit to Rome is a visible sign of your personal search for holiness and your ardent desire to act as heralds of the Gospel, following the heroic example of the Apostles Peter and Paul. Saint Matthew expresses the Church's missionary mandate as follows: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (*Mt 28:18-20*). This passage is a source of great hope for all who devote their energies to the Apostolic Ministry. These words remind us of the constant and active presence of the living Christ in his holy Catholic Church. I invite you and those who cooperate with you in your ministry to meditate on them and to renew your trust in the Lord. As you return home, take with you my affectionate greetings to the people of your country. May your witness as men filled with the hope of the resurrection lead them to an ever greater appreciation of the joys that the Lord has promised us. To each of you and to all those in your pastoral care I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing.

[01420-02.01] [Original text: English]

#### **SCAMBIO DEGLI STRUMENTI DI RATIFICA DELL'ACCORDO TRA LA SANTA SEDE E LA CITTÀ LIBERA E ANSEATICA DI AMBURGO**

Lunedì, 9 ottobre 2006, nella sede della Nunziatura Apostolica a Berlino, il Nunzio Apostolico in Germania, S.E. Mons. Erwin Josef Ender, e il Presidente del Senato e Primo Borgomastro di Amburgo, Signor Ole von Beust, hanno proceduto allo scambio degli Strumenti di ratifica dell'Accordo, che era stato firmato il 29 novembre 2005 fra la Santa Sede e la Città Libera e Anseatica di Amburgo per regolare i rapporti fra la Chiesa cattolica e detta Città-Land.

Presenti alla cerimonia erano, inoltre, il Dott. Volkmar Schön, Consigliere Comunale, il Dott. Klaus David e Monsignor Marek Zalewski, Consigliere della Nunziatura.

L'Accordo è entrato in vigore il giorno successivo allo scambio degli Strumenti di ratifica, a norma dell'Articolo 23, comma 2, dell'Accordo medesimo.

[01421-01.01]

#### **INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE ALLA SEDUTA PLENARIA DELL'ASSEMBLEA GENERALE DELL'ONU SUL N.E.P.A.D.**

Pubblichiamo di seguito l'intervento che l'Osservatore Permanente della Santa Sede presso l'Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite, l'Arcivescovo S.E. Mons. Celestino Migliore, ha pronunciato ieri a New York davanti la seduta Plenaria della 61a Sessione dell'Assemblea Generale dell'O.N.U. sul punto 62: "*New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support*".

- **INTERVENTO DI S.E. MONS CELESTINO MIGLIORE**

Madam President,

Since its adoption five years ago, NEPAD has stood as a guide for the various initiatives that have been implemented in order to fulfil the promises that were made to the people of Africa.

NEPAD has been particularly welcome because it has been an African-owned and African-led process that reflects a common African vision and shared commitment to eradicating poverty and to placing countries, both individually and collectively, on the path to sustainable growth and development. Those objectives are in line with the international commitments to achieve the MDGs, and in particular to halve extreme poverty by 2015.

It is also valuable because it is the first properly African development framework to have gained such ground. The strength of this initiative is, in fact, its ability to conjugate partnership between Africa's governments and her peoples as well as with the private sector and civil society. This is why my delegation believes there is an urgent need for ongoing creativity in this field. A radically new direction is called for in conjunction with the NEPAD initiative: there is a need to create new forms of solidarity at bilateral and multilateral levels through a more decisive commitment on the part of all, with the complete conviction that the well-being of the peoples of Africa is an indispensable condition for the attainment of the universal common good.

Achieving this goal calls for a new political culture, especially in the area of international cooperation. The slowness in honouring ODA commitments, the still unresolved question of some foreign debt and the reluctance to give countries concerned special consideration in international commercial relations all need to be addressed urgently. Today, more than ever, a decisive condition for bringing peace to the world is an acknowledgement of the interdependence between wealthy and poor countries, so that development will be understood as a task common to us all; otherwise, it may undergo a process of regression even in zones marked by progress until now. The Holy See is therefore pleased to see some of these concerns echoed in the report now before us.

As a means to help build international cooperation and strengthen solidarity, my delegation again calls upon governments to honour the promises that they made with regard to debt relief or forgiveness as well as the timely fulfilment of the pledge of devoting 0.7% of GNP as ODA. It is through these sorts of programmes that governments can begin to focus on providing funds for necessary infrastructure and for social and economic development programmes.

Other issues rightly addressed in the report of the Secretary-General concern the need for educational opportunities for both girls and boys, as well as literacy programmes that are essential in achieving development goals.

Furthermore, the Holy See recognizes the importance of protecting the natural environment as a means of exercising humanity's stewardship of creation and safeguarding the riches of the earth for future generations.

Madam President, the promising developments of the past year have shown that there is fresh momentum in support of Africa's development. The NEPAD programme of action consists of a set of priorities aimed at making a discernible impact in restoring stability and growth in Africa. Effective implementation of the priorities of the partnership is key to realizing its promise. The opportunity this provides must be grasped by African leaders and all their development partners as they work to turn pledges into action.

Thank you, Madam President.

[01422-02.02] [Original text: English]

[B0502-XX.02]

