



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II
TO A GROUP OF SENATORS
FROM THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Saturday, 4 June 1983

Dear Friends,

I extend a very cordial welcome to you as we meet today in the Vatican. I have vivid recollections of my own welcome to the United States of America, especially the warm reception given to me in your nations' capital.

I am pleased that you should wish to meet me during your official visit to Europe. This clearly manifests your sentiments of respect, which I assure you are mutual, as well as your desire to engage in constructive dialogue regarding matters of interest and concern to you and to the Holy See.

You are men and women who exercise leadership in the United States and who influence the social, political and economic policies of America. And so, as you perform this important role, I would invite you to keep before your eyes a *global vision* of the events and happenings of our times. I would encourage you to reflect constantly on the moral implications and consequences of your actions and on your influence on the world community. Maintain a keen awareness of the dignity of the human person and be courageous in upholding the inalienable rights which flow from that dignity: the inalienable rights of every human person - every man, woman and child. In this way, you will be serving not only your fellow citizens, but you will be protecting and strengthening the bonds that unite the entire human family.

May you be strong in your resolve to pursue the path of truth and righteousness, no matter what the cost. And be assured that I accompany you in this endeavour with my blessing and my prayers for you and for all your fellow Americans.

Copyright © Dicastero per la Comunicazione - Libreria Editrice Vaticana