



The Holy See

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY

OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II

TO THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC VISIT TO THE CATHEDRAL OF TRNAVA **GREETING OF JOHN PAUL II**

Thursday, 11 September 2003

*Dear Brothers and Sisters!*1. I come with joy to visit this beautiful Cathedral of the Archdiocese of Bratislava-Trnava, dedicated to the holy Precursor of the Lord, Saint John the Baptist. I cordially greet your Archbishop Ján Sokol, the auxiliary Bishops and all of you. From this mother church of all churches of the diocese, I extend my warm greetings to all the people of this territory and upon all of you I invoke the grace and the blessing of the Lord². Saint John the Baptist is the man who lives in *a solitude full of God's presence* and he becomes the voice that announces the coming of the Saving Lamb (cf. *Lk: 3,1-18*). I encourage you dear Brothers and Sisters to nourish within yourselves the sense of God's presence by listening to his Word, by prayer, by the celebration of the Sacraments, by service to your brothers and sisters. In this way you will become in your everyday life, like John the Baptist, *heralds and witnesses to the loving and saving presence of God* in today's world. To all of you, with affection, I impart my Blessing.

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