



The Holy See

CONFERRAL ON THE HOLY FATHER OF THE POLITICAL COURAGE PRIZE
BY FRENCH CATHOLIC TELEVISION (KTO)
AND THE JOURNAL POLITIQUE INTERNATIONALE

***ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II
TO VARIOUS MEMBERS
OF THE WORLD OF CULTURE AND JOURNALISM***

Saturday, 2 October 2004

*Your Eminence,
Dear Brothers in the Episcopate,
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

I am pleased to welcome you and cordially greet Cardinal Lustiger as well as Mr Patrick Wajsman, Director of the magazine *Politique Internationale*, and the members of the French Catholic television company, *KTO*. I thank you for awarding me the "Political Courage Prize" This draws attention to the Church's mission of peace in a world where conflicts are unfortunately too numerous. I would like to launch a new appeal for peace, to build a society of brotherhood among the peoples.

My thoughts go to journalists, who through their witness and publications are artisans of peace and freedom, and who pay a heavy tribute to wars. I am also thinking of the hostages and their families, innocent victims of violence and hatred, and I invite all people of good will to respect human life. No reprisal can end in haggling over human lives. The path of violence is a dead-end.

As I entrust you to the Virgin Mary and implore for the world the gift of peace that comes from God, I impart to you and to all your loved ones my Apostolic Blessing.

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