



The Holy See

***ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II
TO THE MAYOR AND THE MEMBERS
OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARD
AND COUNCIL OF CASTEL GANDOLFO***

Tuesday, 28 September 2004

Mr Mayor,

Dear Members of the Municipal Board and Council,

At the end of my summer stay in Castel Gandolfo, I wanted to say goodbye to each one of you. I thank you in particular, Mr Mayor, for your courteous words expressing the sentiments of everyone here. I extend my grateful thoughts to the Members of the Municipal Administration and to all the citizens for the warm hospitality they have offered me in these months.

I have been able to spend serene and restful days in this pleasant and hard-working locality in the Alban Hills, which are so dear to me. I am now preparing to return to the Vatican and I am comforted by your spiritual closeness and prayers. I warmly thank you for all this, also on behalf of my collaborators.

I entrust you and all your loved ones to the motherly protection of the Virgin Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, and I cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing to you all.