



The Holy See

ADDRESS OF POPE JOHN PAUL II TO VATICAN SECURITY MEMBERS

Saturday, 15 January 2005

*Mr Commissioner,
Officials and Officers of the Inspectorate of Public Security at the Vatican,*

1. I am pleased to welcome you and to offer each one of you my cordial greeting. I greet you all with affection. In particular, I greet Dr Salvatore Festa and thank him for his words of esteem on behalf of all. I would like to offer you and your families my warmest good wishes for the year that has just begun. May it be a peaceful year, especially rich in heavenly blessings and consolation! For Christians, there is no doubt that the greatest gift is Jesus, our salvation. In the Eucharist he has chosen to stay with us: he has made himself our "viaticum", that is, our spiritual nutrition for the journey through life. He sustains us in times of trial and difficulty; he renders us strong in hope and in our daily duties.

2. In the course of this year, specially dedicated to the Eucharist, all the faithful are called to participate more and more fervently in the celebration of Holy Mass, especially on Sundays. For you too, dear friends, may Sunday Mass be a privileged opportunity for a personal encounter with Christ!

As I assure you of my remembrance in prayer, I would like to tell you once again of my gratitude and my appreciation for the service that you carry out with self-denial and loyalty, and I cordially bless you all, together with your families.

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