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Pope Benedict XVI

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On Priestly Identity

"One Who Prays Is Not Afraid; One Who Prays Is Never Alone."

VATICAN CITY, JULY 1, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Here is a translation of the address Benedict XVI gave today during the general audience in St. Peter's Square. He continued with the theme he took up last week: the Year for Priests.

St. John Vianney is undoubtedly a model of an existence made prayer. **Mary, Mother of the Church**, help all priests to follow his example so as to be, like him, witnesses of Christ and apostles of the Gospel.

Schedule released for Papal trip to Prague

VATICAN CITY, JULY 3, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Benedict's schedule for his September visit to the homeland of the Infant of Prague was released

today.

The Pope's three-day apostolic journey to the Czech Republic, Sept. 26-28, will include a meeting with the president of that nation, the celebration of vespers with priests and seminarians, an address to ecumenical representatives and the academic community, as well as a meeting with youth.

His first stop will be at the **Church of Our Lady Victorious**, which houses the Infant Jesus of Prague.

God has answer for ongoing violence, says

Pope 2009. "Affirms That Crucified Christ Is

Promise of Hope" VATICAN CITY, JULY 5, 2009

(Zenit.org).- Ever since murder marked the very first human family, people have continued to kill one another, but God's answer to this is the blood of his Son, Benedict XVI says. As he addressed crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square today to pray the midday Angelus, the Pope reflected on the phenomenon of brother raising his hand against brother. The occasion for this reflection is the tradition of using the first Sunday of July for devotion to the Precious Blood of Christ.

And he concluded with a prayer to Christ's mother: "May the **Virgin Mary**, who beneath the cross, together with the apostle John, witnessed the testament of Jesus' blood, help us to rediscover the inestimable riches of this grace, and to feel profound and perennial gratitude for it."

On the shedding of blood

"When Will Men Learn That Life Is Sacred?"

VATICAN CITY, JULY 5, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Here is a translation of the address Benedict XVI gave today before and after praying the midday Angelus with crowds gathered in St. Peter's Square.

Looking upon the wounds of the Crucified, every man, even in conditions of extreme moral misery, can say: God has not abandoned me, he loves me, he gave his life for me -- and in this way rediscover hope. May the **Virgin Mary**, who beneath the cross, together with the apostle John, witnessed the testament of Jesus' blood, help us to rediscover the inestimable riches of this grace, and to feel profound and perennial gratitude for it.

On the third encyclical

"A Better Future for Everyone Is Possible"

VATICAN CITY, JULY 8, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Here is a translation of the address Benedict XVI gave today during the general audience in Paul VI Hall. He reflected on his third encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate," which was released Tuesday.

(The pope ended his address as follows:)

In particular, I invite you to pray for the leaders of states and governments of the G-8 who are meeting during these days in L'Aquila. That from this important world summit might come decisions and useful guidelines for the true progress of all peoples, especially of the poorest. Let us entrust these intentions to the maternal intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church and of humanity.

On the Economic Crisis and Cultural Values

"Providence Always Helps Those Who Do Good"

ROMANO CANAVESE, Italy, JULY 19, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Here are excerpts from the public address Benedict XVI gave today before praying the midday Angelus in Romano Canavese, close to Les Combes in the Aosta Valley of northern Italy where he is spending some vacation days.

Dear brothers and sisters! In this land of yours, rich in Christian traditions and human values,

numerous vocations have flourished among men and women, especially for the Salesian family, like that of Cardinal Bertone, who was born in this very parish of yours, was baptized in this church, and grew up in a family where he assimilated a genuine faith. Your diocese owes much to the sons and daughters of Don Bosco, to their widespread and fruitful presence in this whole area from the time when the holy founder was still alive. May this be a further encouragement to your diocesan community to commit itself more and more to the field of education and vocational accompaniment.

For this let us invoke the protection of Mary, the Virgin Assumed, Patroness of the Diocese, Help of Christians, a mother loved and venerated in a special way in numerous shrines dedicated to her among the mountains of the Gran Paradiso and on the plain of the Po. May her maternal presence show the way of hope to all and lead them along it as the star led the Magi. May the Madonna of the Star watch over all you from the hill that dominates Ivrea, Monte Stella, which is dedicated to her and to the Magi Kings. Let us now entrust ourselves to the Madonna with filial confidence, invoking her with the prayer of the Angelus.

Pope mourns death of first Mauritian Cardinal

Gives Thanks for Pastoral Dedication

VATICAN CITY, JULY 20, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Benedict XVI expressed gratitude for the generosity and commitment of Cardinal Jean Margot, the first Mauritian cardinal, who died Friday at the age of 93. The Pope sent a telegram Friday expressing condolences to Bishop Maurice Piat of Port-Louis, Mauritius, an island nation in the Indian Ocean off the southeast coast of Africa.

The Holy Father stated, "By the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, may the Lord welcome his faithful servant into his Kingdom of peace and light."

Pontiff Defines Grandparents as Key Educators

Offers Blessing as Church Celebrates Mary's

Parents INTROD, Italy, JULY 26, 2009 (Zenit.org).- Noting the liturgical feast day of Jesus' grandparents, Benedict XVI today gave a special greeting and blessing to all the grandparents of the world. The Pope mentioned grandparents and their role in education when he prayed the midday *Angelus* with faithful who gathered in *Les Combes*, where the Holy Father is vacationing until Wednesday. Today the Church celebrates Sts. Joachim and Anne, Mary's parents. The Bishop of Rome entrusted "all the grandparents of the world" to the protection of Anne and Joachim, and gave them a special blessing.

"May the Virgin Mary," he concluded, "who, according to certain beautiful artistic renderings, learned to read sacred Scriptures at the knee of her mother, Anne, help grandparents to always nourish their faith and hope at the font of the Word of God."