

2-2011

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Pope Benedict XVI

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## February 2011



*"The Abundance of Vocations Is an Eloquent Sign of Ecclesial Vitality"*- **Message sent to the Second Latin American Continental Congress on Vocations, promoted by the Department for Vocations and Ministries of the Latin American Bishops' Council. Signed January 21, the Vatican press office published the letter on February 1, 2011.**

... I implore on the organizers and participants in that Congress the intercession of the Virgin Mary, true model of generous response to God's initiative, while imparting to you at the same time a special Apostolic Blessing.

**On St. Teresa of Avila: "She Presents Prayer as an Intimate Friendship with Christ" – General Audience, February 2, 2011**

... Remaining orphaned of her mother at twelve

years old, she asked the Virgin Most Holy to be her mother (cf. "Life," 1, 7).

*"A Life Dedicated to Listening and to Proclaiming His Word"- Homily during evening vespers on the Day for Consecrated Life, February 2, 2011*

Dear brothers and sisters!

In today's feast we contemplate the Lord Jesus whom Mary and Joseph take to the Temple "to present him to the Lord" (Luke 2:22). Revealed in this evangelical scene is the mystery of the Son of the Virgin, the consecrated One of the Father, who came into the world to carry out his will faithfully (cf. Hebrews 10:5- 7)....

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is an eloquent icon of the total donation of the life for all those men and women who are called to reproduce in the Church and in the world, through the evangelical counsels, the characteristic features of Jesus virgin, poor and obedient" (postsynodal apostolic exhortation "Vita Consecrata," No. 1)....

I would like to propose three brief thoughts for reflection on this feast. The first: the evangelical icon of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple contains the essential symbol of light; the light that, coming from Christ, shines on Mary and Joseph, on Simeon and Anna and, through them, on everyone. The Fathers of the Church linked this radiation to the spiritual journey. Consecrated life expresses this journey, in a special way as "philocalia," love of divine beauty, reflection of the goodness of God (cf. *ibid.*, No. 19). Resplendent on Christ's face is this beauty. "The Church contemplates the transfigured face of Christ, to be confirmed in the faith and not risk dismay before his disfigured face on the Cross ... she is the bride before her Spouse, sharing his mystery, enveloped by his light, [from which] are gathered

all his children ... But a singular experience of the light that emanates from the Word incarnate are certainly those called to the consecrated life. In fact, the profession of the evangelical counsels places them as sign and prophecy for the community of brothers and for the world" (ibid., No. 15).

In the second place, the evangelical icon manifests the prophecy, gift of the Holy Spirit....

In the third place, the evangelical icon of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple manifests the wisdom of Simeon and Anna, the wisdom of a life dedicated totally to the search of the face of God, of his signs, of his will; a life dedicated to listening and to proclaiming his Word....

At this moment, my thought goes with special affection to all consecrated men and women, in every part of the earth, and I entrust them to the Blessed Virgin Mary:

O Mary, Mother of the Church,  
I entrust to you consecrated life,  
So that you will obtain for it the fullness of  
divine light:  
That it may live in listening to the Word of  
God,  
In the humility of the following of Jesus your  
Son and our Lord,  
In the acceptance of the visit of the Holy  
Spirit,  
In the daily joy of the Magnificat,  
So that the Church is built by the holiness of  
life  
Of these your sons and daughters,  
In the commandment of love. Amen.

**"The Social Order Finds an Essential Support  
in the Spousal Union of Man and Woman" -  
Words to New Austrian Ambassador Alfons**

## **M. Kloss, February 3, 2011**

... I entrust you, your family and all the members of the embassy of Austria in the Holy See to the Blessed Virgin Mary, "Magna Mater Austriae," and from my heart I give you and all the beloved Austrian people the apostolic blessing.

*Justice: "A Minimal Requirement and at the Same Time an Expectation of Charity"-*

## **Address to Apostolic Signature, February 4, 2011**

... I entrust to Mary Most Holy, "Speculum Iustitiae" and "Regina Pacis," the prized and delicate ministry which the Apostolic Signatura carries out at the service of communion in the Church, while I express to each one of you the assurance of my esteem and my appreciation.

## **On the World Day of the Sick: "The Lord Cares for Man in Every Situation" – Angelus Address, February 6, 2011**

... On Feb. 11, the feast of the Blessed Virgin of Lourdes, we will celebrate the World Day of the Sick. ... Dear brothers and sisters, let us invoke the maternal intercession of the Virgin Mary, so that parents, grandparents, teachers, priests and those who work in education might form the young generations in the wisdom of the heart so that they attain the fullness of life.

[In English he said:]

As the Church celebrates the World Day of the Sick on the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, may that same light bring hope and healing to those who are ill....

## **"To Educate Is an Act of Love" - Address to Members of Education Congregation, February 4, 2011**

... I entrust you to the maternal protection of Mary

Most Holy, "Sedes Sapientiae," and I impart to all my heartfelt Apostolic Blessing.

*"Proposing Vocations in the Local Church" -*  
**Message for World Day of Prayer for Vocations to Be celebrated May 15, signed November 15, 2010 and released February 10, 2011**

... With trust and perseverance let us invoke the aid of the Virgin Mary, that by the example of her own acceptance of God's saving plan and her powerful intercession, every community will be more and more open to saying "yes" to the Lord who is constantly calling new laborers to his harvest. With this hope, I cordially impart to all my apostolic blessing.

**On Christ and the "Fullness" of the Law: "What Is This Superior Justice That He demands?" – Angelus Address February 13, 2011**

... One creature has already arrived at the summit of the mountain: the Virgin Mary. Thanks to her union with Jesus, her justice was perfect: This is why we call her "Speculum justitiae" (Mirror of Justice). Let us entrust ourselves to her that she might guide our steps in fidelity to the Law of Christ....

[In English, he said:]

... As the Blessed Virgin Mary entrusted her entire life to that wisdom, may we too place our lives completely under the guidance of God's law of love. Entrusting you to Mary's motherly care, I invoke upon you and your families God's blessings of peace and joy.

*"Complete Priestly Formation Includes Not Only the Academic"-* **Address to Pontifical Filipino College, February 18, 2011**

... Invoking the intercession of Our Lady of Peace

and Good Voyage, and as a pledge of grace and peace in the Lord, I willingly impart to all of you my Apostolic blessing.

*"He Who Welcomes the Lord in His Life ... Can Begin Again"- Angelus Address, February 20, 2011*

... We call on the Virgin Mary, Mother of God and of the Church, that she teach us how to love each other and to welcome each other as brothers, children of the same heavenly Father.

**Letter Accepting Resignation of Maronite Cardinal: "It's With the Ardent Desire for Peace ... That You Have Guided This Church" -Addressed to Cardinal Nasrallah Pierre Sfeir, Patriarch of Antioch of the Maronites, dated Feb. 26, 2011.**

... I pray to God Almighty, through the intercession of St. Marone and of Our Lady of the Lebanon, to fill her with his blessings. With my whole heart I impart to you the apostolic blessing, and also to the bishops, to the priests and to the consecrated persons, as well as to all the faithful of the Maronite Church and to the beloved Lebanese nation.

**On Trust in Divine Providence: "The Christian Is Distinguished by His Absolute Trust in the Heavenly Father" – Angelus Address, February 27, 2011**

... Dear Friends, in the light of the Word of God this Sunday, I invite you to invoke the Virgin Mary with the title Mother of Divine Providence. To her we entrust our life, the path of the Church, the events of history. In particular, we invoke her intercession so that we will all learn to live in keeping with a more simple and sober style, in our daily industry and in respect of creation, which God has entrusted to our care.

*"It Is Urgent to Reflect on the Languages  
Developed by New Technologies"* - **Address  
to Social Council, February 28, 2011**

... Dear friends, I thank you for your service. I entrust it to the protection of the Virgin Mary and, assuring you of my prayer, I impart to you the apostolic blessing.