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Sommario:

- ◆ **LE UDIENZE**
- ◆ **UDIENZA AI MEMBRI DEL "JOHN PAUL II CULTURAL CENTER" DI WASHINGTON**
- ◆ **LETTERA DEL SANTO PADRE AL SUO INVIATO SPECIALE ALLE CELEBRAZIONI CONCLUSIVE DEL SINODO DELLE DIOCESI DELLA BIELORUSSIA (MINSK, 29-30 SETTEMBRE 2000)**
- ◆ **INTERVENTO DELLA DELEGAZIONE DELLA SANTA SEDE ALL'INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WAR-AFFECTED CHILDREN**
- ◆ **AVVISO DI CONFERENZA STAMPA**

◆ **LE UDIENZE**

LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

Sua Grazia Daniel Hoi-Kyin, Vescovo Anglicano di Myanmar;

S.E. il Signor Ferenc Mádl, Presidente della Repubblica di Ungheria, con la Consorte e Seguito;

Membri del "John Paul II Cultural Center" di Washington.

Giovanni Paolo riceve questo pomeriggio in Udienza:

Em.mo Card. Joseph Ratzinger, Prefetto della Congregazione per la Dottrina della Fede.

[01907-01.01]

UDIENZA AI MEMBRI DEL "JOHN PAUL II CULTURAL CENTER" DI WASHINGTON

Alle 12 di questa mattina, nella Sala Clementina del Palazzo Apostolico Vaticano, il Santo Padre Giovanni Paolo II ha ricevuto in Udienza i Membri del "John Paul II Cultural Center" di Washington ed ha loro rivolto le parole di saluto che pubblichiamo di seguito:

• SALUTO DEL SANTO PADRE

Dear Cardinal Maida,

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Almost to the day, three years ago, we were spiritually united in the joy of the groundbreaking ceremony of the Cultural Center, and now you are in the final stages of building, with a view to its opening in the new year. Your visit gives me the opportunity to express once more my heartfelt gratitude to those who have supported the project and worked for its realization.

The importance of the Center lies in the fact that it is an instrument of evangelization. Its purpose is not to honor a particular person but to contribute, using the means provided by modern technology, to making the Church and her message better known and understood. The celebration of the Jubilee Year has shown that people everywhere are not only eager to profess the truths of faith but eager also to build and strengthen the sense of Catholic community through religious and cultural activities. One of the principal issues of our day is the relationship between faith and culture. I wish to encourage you in your efforts to ensure that the Center provides opportunities for the study of important themes affecting Christian life in the present cultural climate of your country. Your task is to make the Center a promoter of activities aimed at communicating to a wide audience the treasures of our Catholic heritage.

With gratitude and encouragement therefore I bless your efforts, and I invoke the abundant gifts of the Lord upon you and your families. May your visit to Rome during the Jubilee Year bring you inner peace and a renewed love of the Church.

[01908-02.01] [Original text: English]

LETTERA DEL SANTO PADRE AL SUO INVIATO SPECIALE ALLE CELEBRAZIONI CONCLUSIVE DEL SINODO DELLE DIOCESI DELLA BIELORUSSIA (MINSK, 29-30 SETTEMBRE 2000)

In data 2 settembre 2000, il Santo Padre Giovanni Paolo II ha nominato l'Em.mo Card. Camillo Ruini, Suo Vicario Generale per la Diocesi di Roma e Presidente della Conferenza Episcopale Italiana, Suo Inviato Speciale alle celebrazioni conclusive del Sinodo delle Diocesi della Bielorussia, in programma a Minsk nei giorni 29 e 30 settembre 2000.

Il Cardinale sarà accompagnato da una Missione composta da:

- S.E. Mons. Kazimierz Wielikosielec, O.P., Vescovo Ausiliare e Vicario Generale della Diocesi di Pinsk;
- S.E. Mons. Cyryl Klimowicz, Vescovo Ausiliare e Vicario Generale dell'Arcidiocesi di Minsk-Mohilev;
- Rev.do Mons. Frantisek Kiselj, Vicario Generale della Diocesi di Vitebsk;
- Rev.do Mons. Julio Murat, Segretario della Nunziatura Apostolica a Minsk.

Pubblichiamo di seguito la Lettera del Santo Padre al Suo Inviato Speciale, Card. Camillo Ruini:

Venerabili Fratri Nostro

CAMILLO S. R. E. Cardinali RUINI

Nostro pro Romana Dioecesi Vicario Generali

Spectabilis dilectaque in Bielorrussia Ecclesia per sacram synodum celebrandam quaedam pervestigare contendit et factitare quae in omnium fidelium beneficium largiter recidant. Adlaborantibus inibi sacris ministris, religiosis laicisque, Evangelii salutare monitiones copiose subministrari denuo coeptae sunt, ipsaque Ecclesia tutum felixque ingressa est iter, ut, bene iuvante Domino, uberem profectum assequeretur.

Convenit igitur ac permagni refert ut eventus hic congruenter commemoretur et optimo iure extollatur. Celebratio enim haec copiam dat et facultatem non huius rei dumtaxat magnificandae, verum etiam animos ad ferventiorum religionis sensum, clariorem fidem certioraque proposita permovendi.

Postulatis idcirco Venerabilis Fratris Nostri Casimiri S. R. E. Cardinalis Swiatek, Archiepiscopi Minscensis-Mohiloviensis, subvenire cupimus, qui a Nobis fidenter missum flagitavit ad XXIX-XXX diebus mensis Septembris finem sollemniter imponendum Synodo ibidem celebratae, ut inde fere sumentes vim, Minscensis-Mohiloviensis, Pinskensis Latinorum, Vitebscensis Sedes, dissipatis quibusdam adversis condicionibus, uberiores fructus eventuro de tempore fundant.

Quocirca ut ritus hic spectabilius efficaciusque evolvatur, ad te, Venerabilis Frater Noster, cogitationem convertimus, qui Nostra pro Romana Ecclesia Vicariam operose geris personam, quique prorsus idoneus occurris ad ministerium hoc praestandum et luculenter explendum. Itaque permagna moti affectione, te *Missum Extraordinarium* renuntiamus et constituimus ad sollemnem ritum illum quo synodus antedicta ad exitum adducetur.

Universis igitur participibus hominibusque inibi cunctis voluntatem Nostram benignam Nostramque dilectionem ostendes, cum quamvis longo spatio separemur adsimus spiritu praesentes. Pastoribus inibi fidelibusque cunctis, Magni Iubilaei spiritalibus repletis fructibus, Nostro nomine Nostraque auctoritate Benedictionem Apostolicam impertias velimus, quae sit animorum renovationis signum et felicioris aevi documentum.

Ex Aedibus Vaticanis, die I mensis Septembris, anno MM, Pontificatus Nostri altero et vicesimo.

IOANNES PAULUS II

[01909-07.01] [Testo originale: Latino]

AFFECTED CHILDREN

Pubblichiamo di seguito l'intervento che S.E. Mons. Diarmuid Martin, Segretario del Pontificio Consiglio della Giustizia e della Pace, ha pronunciato in qualità di Delegato della Santa Sede all'*International Conference on War-Affected Children* che si è svolta il 16 e 17 settembre 2000 a Winnipeg (Canada):

Mr. Chairman,

The Holy See wishes, first of all, to commend the Government of Canada for calling this important Conference and hopes that the fruits of our reflection will generate a new momentum in the ongoing efforts of a wide coalition of actors to address the question of children and war.

1. Fight the spread of small arms

On behalf of the Holy See, I wish to address the question of the flow of small arms to areas of conflict and the effect this has on children. The world has looked on in horror at images of children brandishing, at times apparently cherishing possession of small arms in many conflict zones. Let us not be misled by the term "small arms". What we are talking about are quite often sophisticated instruments of death, capable of terrorizing, killing and maiming, as well as brutalizing those who use them. The effects of such direct participation by very young people in direct killing and in witnessing merciless violence has been examined in these days, but the personal wound and trauma caused is truly hard for us to fully imagine.

For the first time in many years, the question of small arms is being addressed more systematically by the community of nations. We must have the courage to address the question of illicit trading in small arms coherently and openly, in a broad and realistic context. We cannot hide the fact that legally-produced and legally-transferred small arms all too often end up in illicit use. When it is a question of these falling into the hands of children, the moral responsibility, both of producers and governments, to prevent illegitimate end-use cannot be evaded.

At the end of conflicts, all efforts must be used to collect arms that have been used and to ensure wherever possible their effective destruction, so that the already enormous stock of these weapons be reduced. Failing destruction, it should be possible to ensure that such arms are removed from conflict areas and are safely stored under effective and verifiable control, where necessary with international verification.

The collection of weapons used in conflicts should also permit more accurate examination of the origin of these weapons. Such information should be provided for the public domain and the evidence of the major avenues of illicit trafficking, by both private and public actors, should be made known. The community of nations should clearly make it known that violations of norms in this area will not be accepted.

2. Military expenditures and the fight against poverty

War and conflict constitute one of the most serious obstacles to development and one of the major causes of the plague of poverty. We are witnessing a renewed efforts on the part of the community of nations to unite in the fight against poverty and to realize agreed common time-bound commitments. Countries are working on the elaboration of poverty reduction strategies, in an effort to make the most effective use of development assistance and the benefits that in some cases may accrue from debt relief.

It would be most appropriate if such poverty reduction strategies also addressed openly the question of military expenses and efforts were made by nations to limit military expenditure to an acceptable percentage level of national expenditure. Regional groupings could also work together to fix targets for capping such military expenditures at a mutually acceptable level for an entire region, thus contributing to regional security.

Conclusion

The question of war-affected children is intimately linked to the question of the movement of small arms. It is to be hoped that interested nations and groups will work together to ensure progress on the establishment of effective international norms on both. You can be sure of the support of the Holy See in this effort for the good of the world's children.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman

[01910-02.02] [Original text: English]

AVVISO DI CONFERENZA STAMPA

Si informano i giornalisti accreditati che **martedì 26 settembre 2000 alle ore 11.30, nell'Aula Giovanni Paolo II** della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede, avrà luogo la **Conferenza Stampa di presentazione del volume "Il Concilio Vaticano II. Recezione e attualità alla luce del Giubileo"**.

Interverranno:

Em.mo Card. Roger Etchegaray, Presidente del Comitato Centrale del Grande Giubileo dell'Anno 2000;

S.E. Mons. Crescenzo Sepe, Segretario Generale del Comitato Centrale del Grande Giubileo dell'Anno 2000;

S.E. Mons. Rino Fisichella, Vice-Presidente della Commissione Storico-Teologica del Grande Giubileo dell'Anno 2000.

Alcune copie del volume in lingua italiana saranno disponibili per la consultazione.

[01899-01.01]
