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◆ LE UDIENZE

LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

S.E. il Signor Ji-Young Francesco Kim, Ambasciatore di Corea presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali;

Em.mo Card. Franc Rodé, Prefetto della Congregazione per gli Istituti di Vita Consacrata e le Società di Vita Apostolica;

il Dott. Bernard Lander, Presidente del Touro College di New York, e Seguito;

il Prof. Mario Agnes, Direttore de "L'Osservatore Romano".

[01413-01.01]

LE LETTERE CREDENZIALI DELL'AMBASCIATORE DI COREA PRESSO LA SANTA SEDE

Alle ore 11 di questa mattina, il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI ha ricevuto in Udienza S.E. il Signor Ji-Young Francesco Kim, Ambasciatore di Corea presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali.

Pubblichiamo di seguito il discorso che il Papa ha rivolto al nuovo Ambasciatore, nonché i cenni biografici essenziali di S.E. il Signor Ji-Young Francesco Kim:

• DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Vatican to accept the Letters of Credence by which the President of the Republic of Korea has appointed you Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Holy See. I take this occasion to renew the expression of my respect and warm affection for the Korean people, and I ask you to convey to President Roh Moo-hyun and all your fellow citizens my prayerful good wishes for the peace and prosperity of your nation.

Your Excellency has noted the remarkable growth of the Catholic Church in your country, due in no small part to the heroic example of men and women whose faith led them to lay down their lives for Christ and for their brothers and sisters. Their sacrifice reminds us that no cost is too great for persevering in fidelity to the truth. Regrettably, in our contemporary pluralist world some people question or even deny the importance of truth. Yet objective truth remains the only sure basis for social cohesion. Truth is not dependent upon consensus but precedes it and makes it possible, generating authentic human solidarity. The Church—always mindful of the truth's power to unite people, and ever attentive to mankind's irrepressible desire for peaceful coexistence—eagerly strives to strengthen concord and social harmony both in ecclesial life and civic life, proclaiming the truth about the human person as known by natural reason and fully manifested through divine revelation.

Your Excellency, the international community joins with the citizens of your country in their heightened aspirations for newfound peace on the Korean peninsula and throughout the region. I take this opportunity to reiterate the Holy See's support for every initiative that aims at a sincere and lasting reconciliation, putting an end to enmity and unresolved grievances. Genuine progress is built on attitudes of honesty and trust. I commend your country's efforts to foster fruitful and open dialogue while simultaneously working to alleviate the pain of those suffering from the wounds of division and distrust. Indeed, every nation shares in the responsibility of assuring a more stable and secure world. It is my ardent hope that the ongoing participation of various countries involved in the negotiation process will lead to a cessation of programmes designed to develop and produce weapons with frightening potential for unspeakable destruction.

Your country has achieved notable successes in scientific research and development. Prominent among these are advances in biotechnology with the potential to treat and cure illnesses so as to improve the quality of life in your homeland and abroad. Discoveries in this field invite man to a deeper awareness of the weighty responsibilities involved in their application. The use society hopes to make of biomedical science must constantly be measured against robust and firm ethical standards (cf. *Address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences*, 6 November 2006). Foremost among these is the dignity of human life, for under no circumstances may a human being be manipulated or treated as a mere instrument for experimentation. The destruction of human embryos, whether to acquire stem cells or for any other purpose, contradicts the purported intent of researchers, legislators and public health officials to promote human welfare. The Church does not hesitate to

approve and encourage somatic stem-cell research—not only because of the favourable results obtained through these alternative methods, but more importantly because they harmonize with the aforementioned intent by respecting the life of the human being at every stage of his or her existence (cf. *Address to the Pontifical Academy for Life Symposium*, 16 September 2006). Mr. Ambassador, I pray that the inherent moral sensibility of the Korean people, as evidenced by their rejection of human cloning and related procedures, will help attune the international community to the deep ethical and social implications of scientific research and its utilization.

The promotion of human dignity also summons public authorities to ensure that young people receive a sound education. Faith-based schools have much to contribute in this regard. It is incumbent upon governments to afford parents the opportunity to send their children to religious schools by facilitating the establishment and financing of such institutions. Insofar as possible, public subsidies should free parents from undue financial burdens that attenuate their ability to choose the most suitable means of educating their children. Catholic and other religious schools should enjoy the appropriate latitude of freedom to design and implement curricula that nurture the life of the spirit without which the life of the mind is so seriously distorted. I appeal to Church and civic leaders to move forward in a spirit of cooperation to guarantee a future for Catholic schooling in your country which will contribute to the moral and intellectual maturation of the younger generation for the benefit of all society.

Your Excellency, on this happy occasion as you begin your mission, I assure you that the Holy See and its various offices will be ever ready to assist you in carrying out your duties. I invoke divine blessings upon you, your family and the people of your country, who hold a special place in my thoughts and prayers at this time.

S.E. il Signor Ji-Young Francesco Kim
Ambasciatore di Corea presso la Santa Sede

E' nato il 24 marzo 1951.

E' sposato ed ha due figli.

Laureato in Lingua e Letteratura tedesca alla *Seoul National University* (Seoul, 1978), si è specializzato in Politica Internazionale presso l'*Australia National University* (Sydney, 1992).

Entrato in carriera diplomatica nel 1978, ha ricoperto i seguenti incarichi: Funzionario del Ministero degli Affari Esteri (1978-1980); Terzo Segretario dell'Ambasciata in Italia (1980-1982); Secondo Segretario dell'Ambasciata in Libia (1982-1987); Primo Segretario dell'Ambasciata in Australia (1987-1991); Primo Segretario dell'Ambasciata in Austria (1991-1993); Direttore di Dipartimento presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (1993-1994); Direttore di Divisione presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (1994-1995); Responsabile dell'Ufficio amministrativo del Primo Ministro (1995-1997); Consigliere di Ambasciata in Myanmar (1997-2000); Vice-Console Generale a New York (2000-2002); Vice-Direttore Generale dell'Ufficio per la formazione del personale del Ministero degli Affari Esteri (2002-2003); Console Generale in Vietnam (2003-2006); Ufficiale di liaison all'Aeroporto Internazionale di *Incheon* (2006-2007); Capo dell'Archivio diplomatico del Ministero degli Affari Esteri, col rango di Ambasciatore (2007).

[01415-02.01] [Original text: English]

RINUNCE E NOMINE

• NOMINA DEL COADIUTORE DI SACRAMENTO (U.S.A)

Il Santo Padre ha nominato Vescovo Coadiutore di Sacramento (U.S.A.) S.E. Mons. Jaime Soto, finora Vescovo titolare di Segia ed Ausiliare della diocesi di Orange in California.

S.E. Mons. Jaime Soto

S.E. Mons. Jaime Soto è nato il 31 dicembre 1955 a Inglewood, in California (Stati Uniti). Nel Seminario di Camarillo (California) ha ottenuto il Baccellierato in Filosofia ed il *Master of Divinity*.

E' stato ordinato sacerdote il 12 giugno 1982 per la diocesi di Orange. Ha poi ricoperto i seguenti incarichi: vicario parrocchiale a San Giuseppe, nella città di Santa Ana (1982-1984); ha ottenuto il *Master in Social Work* presso la *Columbia University School of Social Work* (1984-1986); è divenuto direttore aggiunto delle *Catholic Charities* e direttore dei Servizi di Immigrazione e Cittadinanza delle stesse *Catholic Charities* (1986-1989); è stato nominato vicario episcopale per la comunità ispanica (1989-2000) ed insignito del titolo di Prelato di Onore di Sua Santità (1989); è stato poi nominato vicario episcopale per le *Catholic Charities* (1999-2000).

Il 23 marzo 2000 è stato eletto Vescovo Ausiliare di Orange ed ordinato il 31 maggio seguente. Nella Conferenza Episcopale attualmente è Presidente del Comitato per l'America Latina; membro della direzione del *Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc.*; membro del comitato per i laici; Presidente del sub-comitato per i giovani e giovani adulti.

[01416-01.01]

INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE ALLA 62a SESSIONE DELL'ASSEMBLEA GENERALE DELL'O.N.U. SUL PUNTO 10: PEACEBUILDING COMMISSION

Pubblichiamo di seguito l'intervento che l'Osservatore Permanente della Santa Sede presso l'Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite, l'Arcivescovo S.E. Mons. Celestino Migliore, ha pronunciato ieri a New York alla 62a Sessione dell'Assemblea Generale dell'O.N.U. sul punto 10: *Peacebuilding Commission*:

● INTERVENTO DI S.E. MONS. CELESTINO MIGLIORE

Mr President,

At the very outset, my delegation wishes to express appreciation to Ambassador Ismael Gaspar Martins, Permanent Representative of Angola, for his able chairmanship during the inaugural year of the Peacebuilding Commission. At the same time, I would like to express best wishes to Ambassador Yukio Takasu, Permanent Representative of Japan, as he assumes the Chairmanship of the Commission.

My delegation believes that the best guarantee against conflict is the individual and collective enjoyment of durable peace. To achieve this in a post-conflict country, it is necessary to recognize the special needs of that country, so it can be assisted accordingly in laying the foundation of a sustainable peace. The Holy See therefore warmly welcomed the creation of the PBC, as a response to the need for greater coherence and coordination of international peacebuilding efforts in post-conflict situations.

The Commission's success will be measured on the ground, based on whether or not it makes a difference to communities and countries it works with. Expectations on what it can deliver in countries emerging from armed conflicts continue to rise. This is especially true in Burundi and Sierra Leone. There the PBC is breaking uncharted areas of action, but the PBC's emphasis on strong national ownership and responsibility gives us reason to hope for success in those first two focus countries, as well as in other post-conflict states that will be considered in the future.

The PBC debates and documents suggest that one of the main challenges facing it is to prove that it is not a superfluous superstructure cast over the various stakeholders and actors already working on the ground. Rather, it is meant to bring added value to the overall effort of helping post-conflict States and societies successfully manage the difficult transition from war to sustainable peace and development. This task is made even more

daunting by the fact that post-conflict situations pose multiple and particularly complex problems, all competing for immediate attention. To enable the PBC respond adequately to this, the international community is equally challenged to equip it with the necessary mandate and resources.

I wish to commend the Working Group on Lessons Learned in its efforts in accumulating best practices and lessons on critical peacebuilding issues, thus helping the PBC make decisions more swiftly while avoiding past mistakes.

The Holy See was pleased with the approval of guidelines for civil society participation in the PBC. This participation would be decisive on the ground where, among other stakeholders, faith-based organizations are fully engaged in human development and are at the forefront in fostering dialogue, in peacemaking and in post-conflict reconciliation.

My delegation is aware of the continuing debates on what the PBC should be, on its relation with peacekeeping operations and on its procedures and methods. While this is part of the Commission's growth process, these debates should not distract nor derail it from its mandate of making a difference in the lives of peoples and countries, lest it become just another debating forum.

My delegation is pleased to assure of its continuing interest in the work of the PBC, and to encourage it in the pursuit of its challenging task of helping rebuild individual lives and entire countries ravaged by war. It shall have fully achieved this task when development, peace and security and human rights will finally be interlinked and mutually re-enforcing in a country which knew the devastations of armed conflict.

Thank you, Mr President.

[01414-02.01] [Original text: English]

[B0525-XX.01]
