



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

N. 34.136

From the Vatican, 6 May 2006

Dear Bishop Loverde,

The Holy Father was pleased to learn that on 1-7 June 2006 the General Assembly of the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations will be held in the Diocese of Arlington. He asks you kindly to convey his greetings and warm good wishes to the President, Mrs. María Eugenia Díaz de Pfennich, to the Officers of the Union and to all taking part in this significant international meeting.

His Holiness is most grateful for the efforts of the Union to affirm the evangelizing mission of women in the Church and in society, and he prays that the work of the General Assembly will confirm the members in their vocation as witnesses to the Gospel of Peace (cf. *Eph* 6:15). He encourages the participants to consider the specific contribution which Christian women are called to make to the growth of the civilization of love and the building of a global culture which respects and promotes the inviolable dignity of each human being, especially the underprivileged, the defenceless and the unborn. He is confident that by reflecting on the mystery of the complementarity of the sexes in God's loving plan (cf. *Deus Caritas Est*, 11), they will discover new and creative ways to proclaim the truth of the Gospel and the wisdom of the Church's social teaching in the varied settings of the family, the workplace and the public square. As he has stated on numerous occasions, fidelity to the truth, accepted, understood and lived out in freedom and love, represents a fundamental service to the cause of peace. For "wherever and whenever men and women are enlightened by the splendour of truth, they naturally set out on the path of peace" (*Message for the 2006 World Day of Peace*, 3).

With these sentiments His Holiness entrusts the labors of the General Assembly to the loving protection of Mary, Mother of the Church, and cordially imparts to the members and their families the requested Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of abiding joy and peace in the Lord.

With personal good wishes for the Assembly's deliberations, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Secretary of State

The Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde  
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