

In my Message for the celebration of this year's World Day of Peace I recalled that the poorest human beings are unborn children. But I cannot fail to mention others who are poor, like the infirm, the elderly left to themselves, broken families and those lacking points of reference. Poverty is fought if humanity becomes more fraternal as a result of shared values and ideals, founded on the dignity of the person, on freedom joined to responsibility, on the effective recognition of the place of God in the life of man. In this perspective, let us fix our gaze on Jesus, the lowly infant lying in the manger. Because he is the Son of God, he tells us that fraternal solidarity between all men and women is the royal road to fighting poverty and to building peace. May the light of his love illumine all government leaders and all humanity!

Pope Benedict XVI - 2009

POPES FOR PEACE

From earliest times the popes have served as peacemakers. Prior to his election, Pope Leo the Great (440-461) had been a deacon and was active as a peacemaker in the Roman Empire. As Pope he is most famously remembered for having successfully dissuaded Atilla the Hun in 452 from plundering Rome. Three years later, however, he was not so successful with Genseric the leader of the Vandals, but his influence was just as remarkable in that he persuaded the Vandal horde to stop short of looting the city and setting it on fire, and to refrain from murdering its people.

Another champion of peace was Pope Gregory the Great (595-604). Among the problems he faced was the invasion of the Lombards, Germanic barbarians, either pagans or Arians, who had invaded Italy and were threatening Rome. Gregory dedicated all possible energy towards achieving a peaceful solution. Whereas the Byzantine Emperor had assumed that the Lombards were uncouth predators to be defeated or exterminated, Pope Gregory saw them with the eyes of a good pastor, and was concerned with proclaiming the word of salvation to them, establishing fraternal relations with them in view of a future

peace founded on mutual respect and peaceful coexistence between Italians, Imperials and Lombards. He was successful.

A famous attempt to secure peace was made by Pope Boniface VIII in 1297. It came just after the controversy between King Philip IV of France and the Pope concerning the bull "Clericis Laicos" which attempted to prevent the secular states of Europe, in particular France and England, from appropriating Church revenues. The expansionist monarchies of Philip and Edward I of England soon came to blows and the precedent of taxation of the clergy for fighting a "just war" was established. Boniface stoutly resisted this, but gave up many of his demands and, through arbitration, he achieved a peaceful settlement.

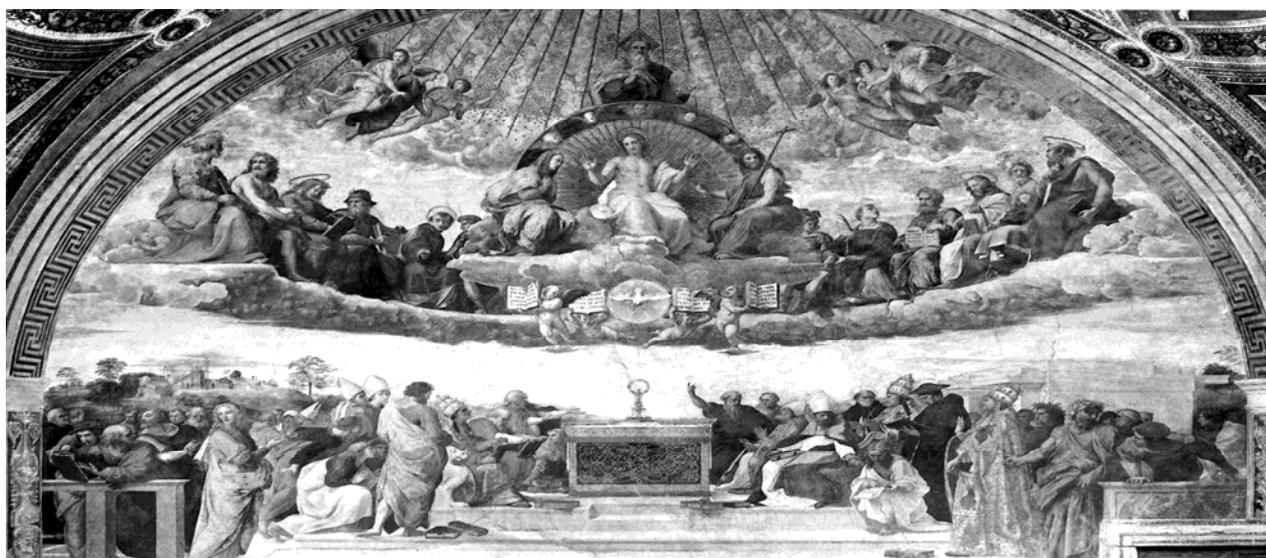
One of the first public acts of Pope Alexander VI (1492-1503) was to effect a settlement between Spain and Portugal. These two nations had been foremost in undertaking voyages of discovery in the East and West. The result was that each expedition annexed the new-found territories to its own home

government which caused continual friction between the rival nations. In the interests of peace, Alexander VI offered to arbitrate between the two countries. He issued his bull "Inter Cætera" in 1493 that fixed a vertical line on the map at meridian of 100 leagues west of the Azores and Cape Verde Islands - assumed to be on practically the same longitude - Spain having the western and Portugal the eastern division. The following year by the Treaty of Tordesillas the imaginary line was moved further west of Cape Verde. To this the pope assented, and thus averted war between the two countries.

In the next century two Medici popes, Leo X and later Clement VII were invited to arbitrate between Poland and Russia over Lithuania. The success of their negotiations led to Pope Gregory XIII being invited to settle the differences between Stefan Báthory of Poland and Ivan the Terrible, Czar of Russia. Between 1572 and 1583 Gregory sent the Jesuit Antonio Possevino to Moscow, who arranged a peaceful settlement between them; Ivan ceded Polotsk and all Livonia to the Poles.

Papal mediation was successful in 1885 when war was averted between Germany and Spain through the arbitration of Pope Leo XIII. The dispute was over the Caroline Islands, a group of about 500 coral islands east of the Philippines in the Pacific Ocean which, though having been discovered by Spain, had been practically abandoned for many years. England and Germany had presented a joint note to Spain, refusing to acknowledge her sovereignty over the islands as some German colonists had been established there. The climax came on 25th August 1885 when both Spanish and German war vessels planted the flags of their respective countries and took solemn possession of the largest island, Yap. Bismark referred the matter to Leo XIII. The Pope gave his decision, allotting the Caroline Islands to Spain and succeeded perfectly in adjusting the conflicting claims of Spanish sovereignty and German interests. The whole matter was amicably accepted and signed at the Vatican by both powers on 17th December 1885.

RAPHAEL – 500th anniversary of beginning his Vatican frescoes



The Disputation of the Holy Sacrament

Pope Julius II (1503-13) moved from the Borgia Rooms in the Vatican to a suite of rooms on the lower floor and recruited a whole colony of painters to transform his new apartment. When Raphael arrived in 1508 the pope dismissed all the other artists and commissioned him to decorate the rooms. In 1509 Raphael began painting in the Stanza della Segnatura - the room where the pope signed his bulls and briefs. The first picture he completed was the *Disputa* or the affirmation of the dogma of the Real Presence.

The product of Raphael's twelve years in Rome from

his arrival in 1508 until his death in 1520 is unparalleled. In this short space of time the young artist from Urbino created masterpieces and left behind him the most complete, serene and harmonious expression of the Renaissance. Having spent time in Florence, painting small pictures, he underwent the most surprising transformation, becoming all at once a most productive painter on a huge scale. His accomplishment was amazing when we consider that this vast and immortal work was accomplished by a young man who was only twenty-six when he began and who died at the early age of thirty-seven.

Julius II could be regarded as a “superman”. This warrior pope had a somewhat temporal idea of his power, but through art he endowed the Church with an intellectual importance which it had seemingly lost since the “Great Schism” when rival popes held sees in both Rome and Avignon from 1378 to 1417. Julius II was one of the first to conceive the idea of Italian unity and in his powerful hands Rome became the capital of the civilized world. When faced with the problems of the sixteenth century as to whether the Church should absorb or condemn progress, whether or not it would associate itself with the humanistic spirit, Julius II deserves the credit for having taken sides with the Renaissance and prepared the stage for the moral triumph of the Church.

The great creations of Julius II, Bramante’s St. Peter’s and Raphael’s Vatican, are inseparable from the great ideas of humanity and culture represented

by the Catholic Church. Here art surpasses itself, becoming the language of something higher, the symbol of one of the noblest harmonies ever realized by human nature. At the will of this extraordinary man Rome became at the end of the sixteenth century the meeting-place of all that was great in art and thought. With the infallible sense and discernment of great judges of men, the pope had immediately called to his service those who would do most honour to his reign. He did not make a mistake and posterity can only ratify his choice. But his infallible divination is best shown in his selection of Raphael. There was nothing in the young man’s work to presage the wholly new genius he was to display nor the unequalled powers of composition, nobility or beauty which slumbered in that privileged soul. Nothing completely explains this singular metamorphosis – it remains the miracle of Raphael’s existence.

THE PRIMACY OF PETER

as affirmed by Early Fathers

Fathers of the 4th century Church attested to papal supremacy by heeding the famous words of Jesus at Caesarea Philippi: “Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church ...” **Optatus of Mile-tum** (AD 370) affirmed that “the blessed Peter has alone received the keys of heaven, in order to entrust them to others”. Similarly **Pope Julius I** (337-52) wrote to the followers of Eusebius: “Know thee not that it is customary to write first to Us and that here it is decided what is right ?” . Later, **Augustine, bishop of Hippo** (354-430) remarked that “the Lord has entrusted his sheep to us because he entrusted them to Peter”.

In the next century the message was the same: “Ye know what is due to the Apostolic See, the source of the episcopate and all its authority ... in matters of faith it is my view that our brethren and fellow bishops must always hold fast to Peter, the founder of their name and dignity” wrote **Pope Innocent I**

and by John Henry Newman

There are kings on the earth who have despotic authority, which their subjects obey but disown in their hearts; but we must never murmur at that absolute rule which the Sovereign Pontiff has over us, because it is given to him by Christ, and in obeying him we are obeying the Lord. We must never suffer ourselves to doubt that, in his government of the Church, he is guided by an intelligence more than human. His yoke is the yoke of Christ, he has the responsibility for his own acts, not we; and to his

(401-17) to the African bishops. In the same way **Pope Celestine I** (422-432) held it unquestionable that “Peter, the Head of the Apostles, lives and passes judgement to the present day and for all time in his successors.” Then **Pope Sixtus III** (432-40): “The holy Apostle Peter has handed down to his successors that which he received.

“All the gifts of Jesus Christ have come down to us through Peter and so the divine gifts may flow from him, the head, though the whole body” wrote **Pope Leo the Great** (440-462) and in 451 six hundred bishops at the Council of Chalcedon proclaimed: “it is Peter who is speaking through the voice of Leo; Peter is perpetually living in his chair”. At the beginning of the sixth century the **Bishop of Patara** said to the Emperor Justinian: “there can be many rulers on the earth, but there is only one pope over all the churches of the world.”

Lord must he render account, not to us. Even in secular matters it is ever safe to be on his side, dangerous to be on the side of his enemies. Our duty is, not indeed to mix up Christ’s Vicar with this or that party of men, because in his high station he is above all parties, - but to look at his formal deeds, and to follow him whither he goeth, and never desert him, however we may be tried, but to defend him at all hazards, and against all comers, as a son would a father, and as a wife a husband, knowing that his

cause is the cause of God. And so as regards his successors, if we live to see them; it is our duty to give them in like manner our dutiful allegiance and our unfeigned service, and to follow them also whithersoever they go, having that same confidence that

each in his turn and in his own day will do God's work and will, which we have felt in their predecessors, now taken away to their eternal reward.

Occasional Sermons, p. 264

THE VATICAN FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR 2008

At a meeting of the Council of Cardinals in the Vatican on 1-2 July the Vatican's budget for 2008 was presented, with separate figures for the Holy See, the Governorate of the City State and "Peter's Pence".

The Holy See's total revenue was 253.95 million euros and expenses were 254.86 million euros giving a deficit of some 0.91 million euros. The expenses were incurred by the different administrative departments of the Holy See, in assisting Pope Benedict in his world-wide mission, which employ 2,732 people of whom 761 are priests, 334 religious (246 men and 88 women) and 1,637 lay people (1199 men and 438 women).

The Governorate of Vatican City State has a budget for providing the management of the territory of the institutions, structures and activities in support of,

but separate from, the Holy See. This ended with a deficit of 15.31 million euros. Like other States, the Vatican has also been affected by the global financial crisis. In Vatican City State there are 1894 employees of whom 31 are men religious, 28 women religious, 1558 lay men and 277 lay women. During this time the Governorate in conjunction with the Holy See upgraded their internet and telephone services. Conservation of art treasures in the Vatican Museums and the restoration of the Pauline Chapel continued, and considerable work was undertaken in the Papal basilicas of St Paul-outside-the Walls and St. Mary Major.

"Peter's Pence" – the annual world-wide collection for the Pope that allows him freedom for his personal charitable activities - came to US \$ 75.8 millions, a slight drop on the previous year.

BERNINI'S COLONNADE – restoration today

Today, Bernini's colonnade is undergoing total restoration on a vast scale, under the direction of the Vatican Technical Services and Museums, who have provided a scientifically programmed and impeccable and exemplary restoration project.

Giovanni Lorenzo Bernini was born in Naples in 1598 and died in Rome in 1680. His family had moved to Rome when he was still young and he stayed there for the rest of his life, apart for a brief period in Paris at the court of King Louis XIV in 1665. He learned his basic skills from his father Pietro, and while still a young man was made architect to St. Peter's and superintendent of public works, a position he held for most of his life. He renovated existing churches, piazzas, fountains and tombs and designed and built new ones. He played a prominent part in the planning of civic functions such as carnivals and firework displays and produced many paintings as well as poems and comedies. Much of the magnificence of present-day Rome, notably the colonnade of St. Peter's, is the work of Bernini, and his ability to put sculpture at the service of architecture worked to the enhancement of both.

Only once in his long career did Bernini have the opportunity to make his dream of total architecture come true - on 17th March 1657, when Pope Alexander VII approved his design for the colonnade around St. Peter's Square. The Pope had clear ideas. He wanted a covered ambulatory that would link the basilica with the city that would also be an appropriate setting for great ceremonial events. After long discussions Bernini and the Pope agreed on the solution that we know.

The two colonnaded hemicycles in the form of a rounded oval had as their perspective focus the gigantic obelisk in the centre of the square. The army of saints, of 140 over- lifesize statues standing out against the sky that decorate the cornices above, gives a theatrical effect of extraordinary symbolic value.

PILGRIMAGE TO SOUTHERN ITALY – September

Our spiritual journey to Southern Italy, led by Fr. Nicholas Kavanagh with Fr. Anthony Richins in September, was a memorable pilgrimage to a beautiful region – the Amalfi Riviera and the Bay of Salerno. We were fortunate in having good weather, a splendid hotel, a very helpful tour assistant Raffaella and an expert driver who conducted us on the challenging roads to the places we saw in the region.

Our visits to Rome traditionally begin with a visit to the tomb of St. Peter, but this time, in Amalfi, we began at the tomb of his brother, St. Andrew. We reached that cosmopolitan town after travelling vertiginous coastal roads with their countless hairpin bends.

Amalfi had been a major maritime republic since the ninth century when it dominated Mediterranean trade, while Venice was still in its infancy. Following the sack of Constantinople in 1204, when many treasures and relics were plundered and dispersed, the body of St. Andrew was brought to Amalfi in 1208 by Cardinal Pietro of Capua, an Amalfian, and interred in the Cathedral Crypt where we celebrated Mass.



Reliquary of St. Andrew, Amalfi

Afterwards, we took a boat trip along the coast where the Amalfians had built their great wharves for their trading fleet. It was very rough and we could imagine the tsunami of 1343 which swept everything away, effectively bringing Amalfi's ascendancy in the Mediterranean to an abrupt end.

The next day we celebrated Mass at the beautiful shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii and learnt the extraordinary story of this world famous shrine which draws countless thousands of pilgrims every year. Blessed Bartolo Longo, a Catholic lawyer and lay Dominican, was the person responsible for building this shrine dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary in 1872, around which the new town of Pompeii grew. As a young university student Bartolo became involved with a Satanist cult and was actually ordained as a satanic priest. Following a long

period of repentance he had an extraordinary experience: "I felt a profound despair and I was determined to do away with myself" he writes "but suddenly I seemed to hear a voice repeating the words of the Blessed Virgin to St. Dominic: "He who propagates my Rosary shall be saved". Bartolo began restoring a dilapidated church in October 1873 and obtained a well-worn image of Our Lady of the Rosary from a local convent and raised funds to get it restored. Miracles attributed to this 'miraculous image' soon began to be reported and people flocked in droves to the shrine. He constructed a larger church, which was consecrated in May 1891. In 1939 this was enlarged again to a basilica, known today as the Basilica of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary of Pompeii.

On a pastoral visit to this shrine on October 19th last year, Pope Benedict placed the world in Mary's hands and in a gesture of filial love, offered the Madonna a golden rose. He introduced his homily that day to the 50,000 pilgrims with a prayer written by Blessed Bartolo Longo:

"We implore you to have pity today on the nations that have gone astray, on all Europe, on the whole world that they might repent and return to your heart. If you will not help us because we are ungrateful and unworthy children of your protection, we will not know to whom to turn."

"The secret of Pompeii is the Rosary", Pope Benedict affirmed on that occasion, pointing out that "the Rosary is a spiritual weapon in the struggle against evil, against all violence, for peace in hearts, in families, in society and in the world."

From there we travelled to Vesuvius, the smallest volcano in world but certainly one of the most famous. In 79AD it erupted with devastating effect, destroying the industrial city of Pompeii and the fashionable seaside resort of Herculaneum nearby. Several of us climbed to the summit of the volcano to peer into the huge crater, to smell the sulphurous air and see small columns of smoke issuing forth from the chasm.

We then travelled on to Herculaneum, now 80 feet below ground level; shops, houses, baths and public buildings had all been engulfed in superheated mud that had oozed into every crevice. Remarkably, this had the effect of preserving the wood which had carbonized with the heat. On the waterfront a boat is preserved; in one house a complete timber balcony can be seen, and in another a bed is still in a downstairs room with a complete blackened timber staircase leading to the first floor.

On several of our pilgrimages the Friends have en-

countered ancient baptisteries and this one was no exception. At Nocera Superiore, near the town of Cava di Tirenni where we were staying, we visited the Baptistery of Santa Maria Maggiore, a circular 6th century construction, similar to, but rather smaller than the Baptistery of St John Lateran in Rome, which has striking Byzantine influences.



The town of Ravello is inland from

Room with preserved timber balcony

Amalfi and is one of the most famous beauty spots in all Italy. Fathers Nicholas and Anthony celebrated Mass in the Cathedral of St. Pantaleone - an Imperial physician who suffered martyrdom during Diocletian's persecution in 303. We venerated the phial of his blood preserved behind iron grilles embedded in the wall. This is a black mass at the bottom of the glass phial above which is a milky-white fluid which, on 27th July each year, liquefies to become a translucent red. It remains so for several weeks, before slowly returning to the original state.

A short walk took us to the Palazzo Ruffolo, an ensemble of Norman-Saracenic buildings enhanced by tropical gardens, that had been the home of our



The baptistery at Nocera Superiore

only English Pope, Adrian IV – Nicholas Breakspear – in 1156. From there we visited the Villa Cimbrone where a long tree-lined avenue through the gardens led to the belvedere terrace that has breathtaking views over the bay. In the 1920's this villa had been the haunt of the Bloomsbury set that included Lytton Strachey, Maynard Keynes, TS Elliott and Virginia Woolfe. Other visitors were DH Lawrence and Winston Churchill.

On the feast-day of St. Michael the Archangel we

were in Salerno, a small city in Campania located on the Gulf of Salerno in the Tyrrhenian Sea. The glory of Salerno is the Cathedral of St. Matthew which houses the tomb of the Disciple and Evangelist whose body was interred here in 954. We made for the Cathedral to find that we were accompanied by the city's police force which had turned out in full uniform to celebrate the feast day of their patron saint, St. Michael – a spectacular occasion. After Mass we descended to the Crypt to visit the Apostle Matthew's resting-place. The Cathedral was built in the Norman style by Robert Guiscard who then ruled southern Italy and in the chapel to the right of the high altar lie the remains of Hildebrand- Pope St. Gregory VII.

The first medical school in Western Europe had been founded at the Benedictine monastery in Salerno in 794 where the botanical and medical works of the ancients were studied. In 1070 the celebrated Constantino Africano, who had studied in the schools of the Arabs at Babylon, Baghdad and in Egypt, was presented by the brother of the Caliph of Babylon to Robert Guiscard who took him on as his secretary. Constantino gave a new impulse to philosophical and to medical studies by making known to the West the works of the Arabs. King Roger I of Sicily and southern Italy gave laws to the schools of Salerno, which was the first Western school to give academic degrees.

From Salerno we travelled to Pontecagnano nearby to visit the Salerno War Cemetery. On 3rd September 1943 the Commonwealth and American forces began the invasion of the Italian mainland, having already occupied Sicily, to meet stiff German resistance. The chief aim was to draw German troops from the Russian front and, most importantly, from France, prior to the secretly planned D Day advance into Europe in the following year. Commonwealth and American forces landed at Salerno on 8th and 9th September 1943 and after fierce fighting the bridgehead was established. 1,846 Commonwealth soldiers gave their lives at that time and now lie beneath the beautifully kept green-sward where we spent some time wandering round the graves remembering the bravery of our valiant soldiers.



Mass at St. Matthew's shrine - Salerno



Group in Salerno

PILGRIMAGE 2010 - ROME

This will take place in early November 2010. The pilgrimage will include visits to places that have associations with John Henry Newman. St Peter's Baslica, to which the Oxford don came to on his first journey to Rome in 1933, before going on to the Venerable English College for conversations with the rector, Dr. Nicholas Wiseman. On his second visit in 1856 he saw the Pope celebrating Mass in St. Peter's. The College of Propaganda Fide where at the age of 46 Newman studied for the priesthood. The Basilica of St. John Lateran where Newman was

OSCAR WILDE

In July the Vatican newspaper *L'Osservatore Romano* carried an appreciation of the Irish playwright, poet and author Oscar Wilde (1854 – 1900).

Wilde was not only an anti-conformist who delighted in shocking the conservative society of Victorian England but was also a lucid analyst of modernity in its positive and disturbing aspects; not only the aesthete inviting people to tackle the problem of what is right and wrong, true or false, even his most famous comedies are based on misunderstanding, such as the *Importance of Being Earnest*

His plays are widely performed today and his wit often quoted such as: on friendship - "a true friend is one who stabs you in the front" and "a man cannot be too careful in the choice of his enemies". On advice: "I always pass on good advice. It is the only thing to do with it. It is never of any use to oneself". On sport: "I am afraid I play no outdoor games at all, except dominoes. I have sometimes played dominoes outside a French café". On work: "work is the refuge of those who have nothing better to do" or "work is the curse of the drinking classes". On the theatre: "the play was a success but the audience Oscar Wilde was a total failure". On health: "he had only two topics of conversation, his gout and his wife. I could

ordained a deacon in 1847. The Church of St. Philip Neri of the Oratorians which Newman chose for his new congregation in England, and the Basilica of Santa Croce with the monastery where Pope IX offered him a six months stay to organize the English Oratorians.

We will also travel to Viterbo, north of Rome, to visit the little village of Palanzana, the birthplace of Fr. Dominic Barberi who received John Henry Newman into the Church at Littlemore in 1845.

never quite make out which of the two he was talking about". He fought the false certainties of his time - "the things one feels absolutely certain about are never true". Behind the frivolity and cynicism there lay concealed a profound awareness of the mysterious values of life - "nowadays people know the price of everything and the value of nothing" he says in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.



In 1877 Wilde had a private audience of Pius IX who expressed to the Irish writer the hope that he would "journey through life until you reach the City of God". After his conviction for homosexuality and miserable incarceration in Reading Gaol he went abroad and died penniless in Paris. On his deathbed he was received into the Church and fulfilled the words he wrote years before: "Catholicism is the only religion worth dying for".

THE PRAYER INTENTIONS OF POPE BENEDICT XVI for 2010

JANUARY

General **Young people and Social Communications Media**

That young people may learn to use modern means of social communication for their personal growth and to better prepare themselves to serve society.

Missionary **Christian Unity**

That every believer in Christ may be conscious that unity among all Christians is a condition for more effective proclamation of the Gospel.

FEBRUARY

General **Scholars**

For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth that they may arrive at the understanding of the one true God.

Missionary **The Church's Missionary Identity**

That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and proclaim his Gospel to all people.

MARCH

General **World Economy**

That the world economy may be managed according to the principles of justice and equity, taking account of the real needs of the peoples, especially the poor.

Missionary **The Churches in Africa**

That the Churches in Africa may be signs and instruments of reconciliation and justice in every part of that continent.

APRIL

General **Fundamentalism and Extremism**

That every tendency of fundamentalism and extremism may be countered by constant respect, by tolerance and by dialogue among all believers

Missionary **Persecuted Christians**

That Christians persecuted for the sake of the Gospel may persevere, sustained by the Holy Spirit, in faithfully witnessing to the love of God for the entire human race.

MAY

General **Human Trafficking**

That the shameful and monstrous commerce in human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may be ended.

Missionary **Priests, Religious and Committed Lay People**

That ordained ministers, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to infuse missionary enthusiasm into the communities entrusted to their care.

JUNE

General **Respect for Human Life**

That every national and trans-national institution may strive to guarantee respect for human life from conception to natural death.

Missionary **The Churches in Asia**

That the Churches in Asia, which constitute a "little flock" among non-Christian Populations may know how to communicate the Gospel and give joyful witness to their adherence to Christ.

JULY

General **Justice in Electing those who Govern**

That in every nation of the world the election of officials may be carried out with justice, transparency and honesty, respecting the free decisions of citizens.

Missionary **An urban Culture of Justice, Solidarity and Peace**

That Christians may strive to offer everywhere, but especially in great urban centres, an effective contribution to the promotion of education, justice, solidarity and peace.

AUGUST

General **The Unemployed and the Homeless**

That those who are without work or homes or who are otherwise in serious need may find understanding and welcome, as well as concrete help in overcoming their difficulties.

Missionary **Victims of Discrimination, Hunger and Forced Emigration**

That the Church may be a "home" for all people, ready to open its doors to any who are suffering from racial or religious discrimination, hunger, or wars forcing them to emigrate to other countries.

SEPTEMBER

General **The Word of God as sign of Social Development**

That in less developed parts of the world the proclamation of the word of God may renew people's hearts, encouraging them to work actively towards authentic social progress.

Missionary **The End of War**

That by opening our hearts to love we may put an end to numerous wars and conflicts which continue to bloody our world.

OCTOBER

General **Catholic Universities**

That Catholic Universities may more and more be places where, in the light of the Gospel, it is possible to experience the harmonious unity existing between faith and reason.

Missionary **World Mission Day**

That the World Mission Day may afford an occasion for understanding that the task of proclaiming Christ is an absolutely necessary service to which the Church is called for the benefit of humanity.

NOVEMBER

General **Drug addicts and Victims of Every Form of Dependence**

That victims of drugs or other forms of dependence may, thanks to the support of the Christian community, find in the power of our Saving God strength for a radical life-change.

Missionary **The Continent-wide Mission in Latin America**

That the Churches of Latin America may move ahead with the continent-wide mission proposed by their bishops, making it part of the universal missionary task of the People of God.

DECEMBER

General **The Experience of Personal Suffering as a Help to Others who suffer**

That our personal experience of suffering may be an occasion for better understanding the situation of unease and pain which is the lot of many people who are alone, sick or aged, and stir us all to give them generous help.

Missionary **Opening Our Doors to Christ**

That the peoples of the earth may open their doors to Christ and to His Gospel of Peace, brotherhood and justice.

Subscriptions

A subscription renewal notice is offered to those who do not renew by Banker's Order. Please act on it **now**. If you would like to renew by Banker's Order in future, please ask for a form. We would also be very grateful if taxpayers could complete a Gift Aid Form if you have not already done so. We are currently raising funds for the Pope John Paul II Peace Centre in Jerusalem.

Please remember that leaving a **legacy** to the F.H.F. is a way of continuing your support for the Holy Father well into the future. We are a national charity (no. 280489) so your bequest is exempt from inheritance tax. It can be included in a new will or added in a codicil to your existing will.

A HAPPY AND HOLY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

FRIENDS OF THE HOLY FATHER

Registered charity number 280489

23 Vincent House, Vincent Square, London, SW1P 2NB

Web site: www.friendsoftheholylfather.org