

The Daily Star

The National Day of The Holy See 2007

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



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POPE BENEDICT XVI'S PEACE MESSAGE FOR THE YEAR 2007

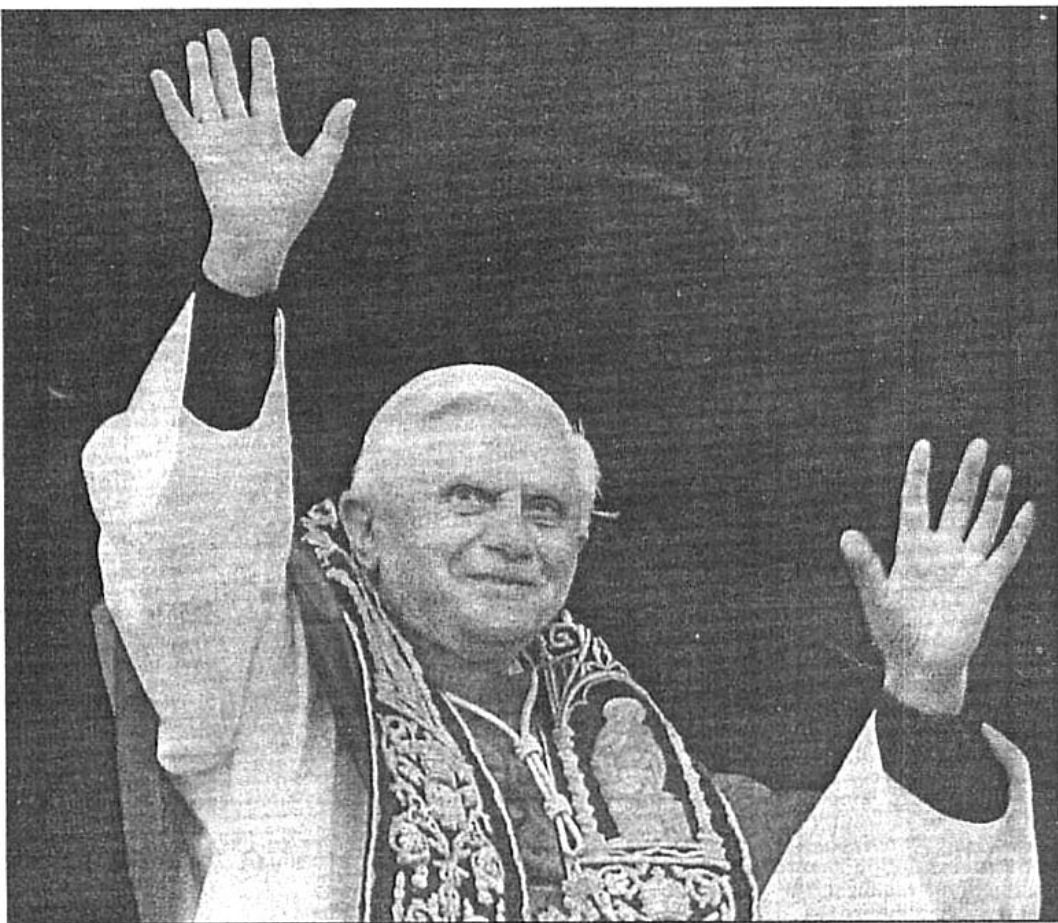
'Human person: The centre of peace'

HUMAN Person: the theme of Pope Benedict XVI's Message for the World Day of Peace 2007. The World Peace Day is observed on 1st January every year. The Message was made public on 12th December 2006 by His Eminence Cardinal Raffaele Martino and Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, respectively President and Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The text has been published in English, French, Spanish, Italian, German and Portuguese.

In his Message, the Holy Father expresses his conviction "That respect for the person promotes peace and that, in building peace, the foundations are laid for an authentic integral humanism".

The Message is structured in three parts, the first of which highlights the meaning and value of the connection between the human person and peace, considered and presented through the theological-spiritual categories of "gift and task". In the second part, the truth of the human person is related to the new and innovative concept of "ecology of peace". In the third part, the truth about human beings is considered with the reference to the complex field of respect for the fundamental rights, of international humanitarian law and of certain responsibilities inherent to the activity of international organizations. The Message concludes with a call to Christians to become workers of peace.

The Pope's Message stresses the recognition of the transcendent order of things and that it is the basis upon which to found the inter-religious and cultural dialogue that aims to promote peace. In order to advance the cause of peace, humanity today must treasure the norms of natural law, norms which should not be viewed



as externally imposed decrees, as restraints upon human freedom. Rather, they should be welcomed as a call to carry out faithfully the universal divine plan inscribed in the nature of human beings.

Later in the Message, the Holy Father affirms that "certain things are and must remain beyond the disposal of human will, these are the right to life and to religious freedom, the former because it is a gift and the latter because it opens nature to something that transcends it".

On the subject of the natural equality of all persons, the Roman Pontiff highlights how inequalities of social status and gender are worrying causes of instability in building of peace.

The part which is dedicated to the 'ecology of peace', the Pope poses a series of questions that highlight how the problem of the relationship with nature is closely associated with construction, among mankind and between nations, of ecological relationships, in other words, relationships

that respect the dignity of the person and his or her authentic needs. In the later part, the Holy Father presents the foundations for an ecology of peace and the base upon which the 'tree of peace', should grow. With faith and hope he brings us to understand that it is possible to cultivate this tree, so long as we let ourselves be guided by a correct and as broad as possible vision of the human person, because the reduction of man, of his values and his dignity, is often paid for with conflict.

The Pope affirms that peace has become difficult also because of indifference as to what constitutes man's true nature. Such an attitude is very dangerous for peace, which can not be built upon emptiness and indifference because, in such circumstances, reciprocal recognition is merely formal, conventional and provisional.

His Holiness makes it clear that true and stable peace presupposes respect for human rights anchored in a strong conception of the human person. Rights express the requirements of man's nature as it arose in the Creation. They tell us what men and women need in their existence in order to be able to be themselves with dignity. They tell us how we must treat man in order to respect his dignity. Human rights cannot sustain the continuous attacks to which they are subject if they do not rediscover this significance.

Pope Benedict XVI goes on to recall the original vocation of international organizations, especially the United Nations, and encourages them to be guardians of the promotion of human rights. He also returns this year to the value of international humanitarian law, with reflections inspired by realism and by trust. Finally, he expresses his concern at the fact that some countries have expressed the desire to supply themselves with nuclear weapons.

The conclusion of Holy Father's Message is entirely dedicated to Catholics, who are called to be tireless workers for peace and energetic defenders of the dignity of the human person. The sentiment of belonging to the Church must be lived with a generous dedication towards everyone, especially towards people suffering poverty and privation, and lack the precious gift of peace. The full text of the Message can be found at www.vatican.va.

MESSAGE of the Papal Nuncio to Bangladesh

IT is a great joy for me to address a message to the People of Bangladesh on the special occasion of the Second Anniversary of the election of the Pope His Holiness Benedict XVI. On this joyful occasion, I convey my best wishes and warm greetings to the People of Bangladesh.

The People of Bangladesh and the Holy See enjoy a special bond and unique relationship since the time of the establishment of their diplomatic relations in 1973. During my tenure in this Country I have witnessed the goodwill, affection and appreciation of many Bangladeshis towards the Holy See.

On this occasion, I would like to mention the need for Inter-religious dialogue in the world of today. The Holy See is committed to promote Inter-religious dialogue and cooperation for the well-being of the human family.

His Holiness Benedict XVI, from the very first day of his Installation as the Supreme Pontiff of the Catholic Church, affirmed that "the Church wants to continue building bridges of friendship with the followers of all religions, in order to seek the true good of every person and of society as a whole".

Recently, receiving in the Vatican a delegation from the Foundation for Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Research and Dialogue led by His Royal Highness Prince Hassan of Jordan, the Pope reaffirmed that "the inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue is not an option, but a vital necessity of our time." The believers of the three monotheistic religions Jews, Christians and Muslims are called to recognize and

strengthen the ties that bind them together, to discover the most essential and most authentic message in order to communicate it to the world of today.

As a means to achieve it, we need to promote, between different faiths and religions, a dialogue which should be "true, respectful of the differences, courageous, patient and persevering" and which "draws its force in prayer and becomes enriched through experiences present in all those who believe in God." Such efforts will certainly contribute to reinforcing the fraternal bonds between our communities of believers.

The Holy See also appreciates the religious harmony in the society of Bangladesh. I am happy to learn that today many people and organizations are engaged in Inter-Religious dialogue so that the religious harmony could be achieved through understanding and dialogue.

Bangladesh has always been known for its Religious harmony. For centuries people belonging to various religious groups have lived here in peace. It is a country of tolerance and peaceful coexistence between

different Religions and ethnic groups. I wish and pray that all the Bangladeshi people Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists all together may work for the cause of peace, thereby assuring the world a better future, one marked by peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.

Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam
Apostolic Nuncio



THE HOLY SEE AND THE VATICAN DIPLOMATIC CORPS The Vatican maintains diplomatic relations with 175 countries

THE Sovereign Pontiff Head of the Catholic Church, for many centuries, had good relations with the Governments and the civil authorities. They gave to these intermediaries the name of Apocrisaries.

The first Nuncio we know was Julien, Bishop of Cos, man of trust of Pope Leo (440-461). The Pope Pelage I (556-561) and Saint Gregory the Great (590-604) were apocrisaries in Constantinople before becoming Pope. Some times the Popes appointed temporary emissaries or legates.

The Ambassador of the Holy See is called "Nuncio". The word "Nuncio" comes from the Latin word "Nuntius" which means "messenger". This name was maintained in order to distinguish the Nuncio from the other Ambassadors, because of the Christian spiritual values represented by him.

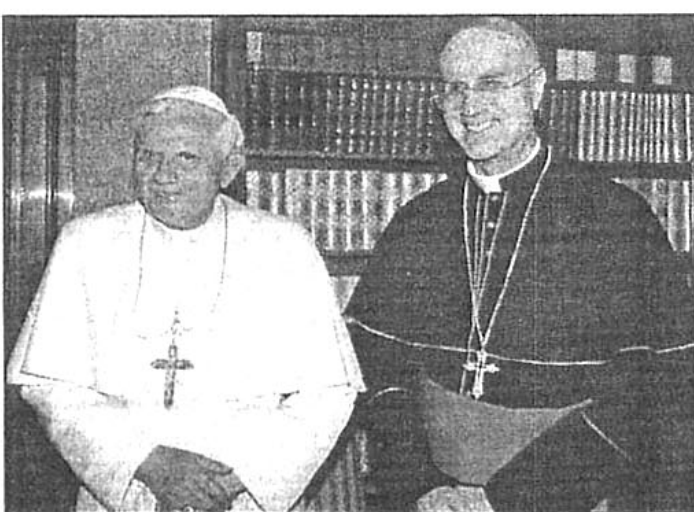
The figure of an ambassador to the Vatican originated in the fifteenth century. It happened when Spain, France, the Republic of Venice and the major European powers of the time

began appointing stable missions to the Holy See (from the Latin Sancta Sedes, the "Chair of Peter") while receiving Apostolic Nuncios as envoys from the Pope in their own capital cities.

It is from the XVI century that the Apostolic Nunciatures were established. The oldest was that of Venice (1500), followed by that of Spain, Portugal, France, Naples and Great Britain.

The Nuncio is a member of Diplomatic Corps. From the time of the Catholic Courts the privilege to be the first among other Ambassadors was accorded to the Representative of the Holy Father. At present, the Nuncio is the Dean of the Diplomatic Corps in certain Catholic Countries, especially in Europe and Latin America.

The shape of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Vatican has changed considerably since the 1400s. The most obvious change is numerical, as today 175 countries from around the world have full diplomatic exchange with the Holy See at Ambassadorial level. Added to these are the special agreements between the Vatican and Russia and the Palestinian Liberation



Benedict XVI with The Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone.

Organization. Another exceptional case is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, whose sovereignty is internationally recognized, although it has only a castle on the island of Malta as its territory. The Holy See also has diplomatic relations with the European Union. Keeping in mind that there are 185 countries represented at the United Nations, it can readily be seen that the few remaining gaps in

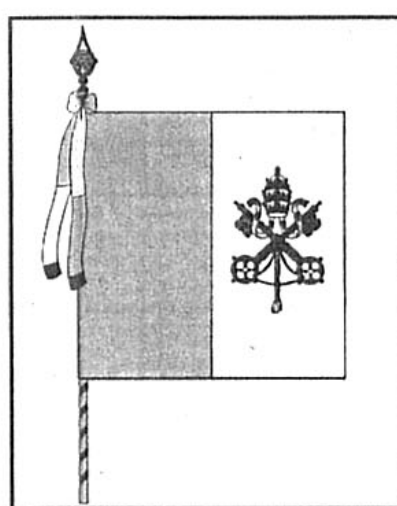
Vatican diplomacy are being quickly reduced.

The Apostolic Nunciature in Dhaka, or, as it is known here, "the Vatican Embassy", had its beginning at the time of Bangladesh's liberation, when Pope Paul VI sent his personal delegation for the occasion. The Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh welcomed this gesture of solidarity and indicated its desire to establish diplomatic relations. An agreement was announced in September 1972, and on 2 February of the following year, an Apostolic Nunciature was set up. The first Papal Representative, Australian Archbishop (now Cardinal) Edward Cassidy, arrived in Dhaka on 4 April 1973 and served up till 1979. Since then the following representatives have served in Bangladesh: Archbishop Luigi Accogli (1979-1989), Archbishop Piero Biggio (1989-1992), Archbishop Adriano Bernardini (1992-1996), and Archbishop Edward Joseph Adams (1996-2002). At present, Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam is at service, who took over the office of the Apostolic Nuncio in February 2003.

The Vatican is determined to maintain cordial and official relations with all countries and seeks "to carry the Culture of Peace to the life of individuals, societies and nations".



Heartiest felicitations to His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI On the occasion of the 2nd Anniversary of His Pontificate



ENEM EXPRESS LTD.

MAWTS Institute of Technology, Mirpur, Dhaka.

The Metropolitan Christian Cooperative Housing Society Ltd. Tejgaon, Dhaka.

The Christian Cooperative Credit Union Limited, Dhaka

St. Jude's International School, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

Mercantile Bank Limited

PIME Missionaries, Mohammedpur, Dhaka.

Mother & Child Integral Welfare Organization (MCIWO), Mohammedpur, Dhaka.

Brothers of Holy Cross, Bangladesh

St. Francis Xavier's Greenherald International School, Mohammedpur, Dhaka

M/s. Yusuf Ali Sikder, Export of Hilsha Fish, Barisal

Amrita Oil & Food Products, Bijoy Krishno Dey, Barisal

Globe Umbrella, Bahauddin Ahmed, Barisal

Sultan Enterprise, Sultan Mahmud, Barisal

Olympic Cement Ltd., Mujibur Rahman Khan, Barisal

Mr. Joachim Madbor & Ms. Rita Gomes & Family, Rayer Bazar, Dhaka.

Children's Garden (Kindergarten School) Mohammedpur, Dhaka.

Mr. Innocent D' Costa & Family, Tejgaon, Dhaka.



Mr. Nicholas Gomes & Mrs. Cecelia Gomes & Family, Tejgaon, Dhaka.

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Basil Gomes & Family, Rampura, Dhaka.

Mr. Jerom Sarker & Family, Luxmibazar, Dhaka

Christian Medical Hospital, 113/A Monipuripara, Dhaka

Mr. Hemanta T. and Mrs. Lipy Daisy Gomes and Family, Mohakhali, Dhaka.

Sage Academy, Mohammedpur, Dhaka

Kafrul Christian Co-operative Credit Union Ltd, Dhaka.

Dr. Noel Charles Gomes & Family, Kafrul, Dhaka.

Mr. Joseph, Cynthia Modhu & Family, Mohammedpur, Dhaka.

Responsive to Integrated Development Service (RIDS), Monipuripara, Dhaka

Mr. Eric S Quiah & Family, Kafrul, Dhaka.

Mr. Placid Gomes & Ms. Elizabeth Gomes & Family, Indira Road, Dhaka.

Dhaka YMCA, Airport Road, Tejgaon.

Human Development Programme (HDP), Monipuripara, Dhaka.

Mr. Peter A. Gomes & Family, Kafrul, Dhaka.

Mr. Robert Simon & Mrs. Chitra Gomes & Family, Monipuripara, Dhaka.

Mr. Dipok & Ms. Snigdha Bose & Family, Kafrul, Dhaka

Mr. Ronald & Ms. Patricia Quiah & Family, Uttara, Dhaka.

Mr. Xavier Gomes, Royal Guard Service pvt.Ltd. Dhaka

Mr. Hubert Gomes & Family, Tejguribazar, Dhaka.

Pratibeshi Unnayan Foundation, Dhaka