



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II
TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE VARIOUS ITALIAN
SECURITY FORCES IN CASTEL GANDOLFO**

Tuesday, 28 September 2004

*Dear Officials and Officers of the Police Force,
of the Financial Guard,
and Officers of the Carabinieri Army Corps,*

As I prepare to leave the residence at Castel Gandolfo, I feel duty bound to express to you my esteem and appreciation of the generous and faithful service you carry out to enforce order and security.

I thank you for contributing to my serene and tranquil stay in this beautiful region. I hope you will always be witnesses to the values of justice, loyalty and a spirit of sacrifice, whose deepest source is love for God and for our neighbour.

For this I assure you of my remembrance in prayer and, as I invoke upon you and your families the motherly protection of Mary Most Holy, *Virgo Fidelis*, I impart my Apostolic Blessing to you all with affection.