



To the Knights of Columbus

Once again this year I wish to offer heartfelt best wishes to all the Knights of Columbus on the occasion of the Supreme Council's Annual Meeting. To all those assembled in San Antonio I send my warmest greetings and the assurance of a remembrance in my prayers.

I gladly take this opportunity to thank you all for the outstanding example of Christian commitment which the Knights offer, and which is manifested in the generous sharing of your time, talents and material blessings. I especially appreciate all that you do to uphold and promote Catholic teaching, above all in the area of the family and the defense of life. Nor can I fail to mention your great respect and support for my own universal ministry and for the work of the Holy See, as well as for the pastoral labors of Bishops, priests and religious throughout the world.

As preparations continue for the Eighth Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops to be held in Rome this October, I invite you to join the whole Church in prayerful reflection on the theme for discussion: "The Formation of Priests in the Circumstances of the Present Day". It is my hope that the Synod will successfully promote throughout the Church

the appropriate formation of seminarians and priests, whose ministry requires a life-long spiritual and intellectual commitment. I urge all of you and your families to pray for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the work of the Synod, and to persevere in your strong support of priests and priestly vocations, so essential for the Church's life and mission.

On the occasion of your 108th Annual Meeting, I invoke upon the Knights of Columbus the loving intercession of Mary the Mother of God, so that through her prayers you may always be faithful witnesses to the Gospel. With affection in the Lord Jesus I willingly impart to you and to your loved ones my Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, July 21, 1990

Joannes Paulus II