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# **BOLLETTINO**

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## ◆ **LE UDIENZE**

LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

S.E. il Signor János Balassa, Ambasciatore di Ungheria presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali;

Ecc.mi Presuli della Conferenza Episcopale di Turchia, in Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum":

S.E. Mons. Ruggero Franceschini, O.F.M. Cap., Arcivescovo di Izmir;

S.E. Mons. Luigi Padovese, O.F.M. Cap., Vescovo tit. di Monteverde, Vicario Apostolico di Anatolia;

S.E. Mons. Louis Pelâtre, A.A., Vescovo tit. di Sasima, Vicario Apostolico di Istanbul; Amministratore Apostolico dell'Esarcato Apostolico di Istanbul;

S.E. Mons. Georges Khazzoum, dell'Ist. del Clero Patriarcale di Bzommar, Arcivescovo Coadiutore di Istanbul degli Armeni.

Il Papa riceve questa mattina in Udienza:

Gruppo degli Ecc.mi Presuli della Conferenza Episcopale di Turchia, in Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum".

[00196-01.01]

### **LE LETTERE CREDENZIALI DELL'AMBASCIATORE DI UNGHERIA PRESSO LA SANTA SEDE**

Alle ore 11 di questa mattina, il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI, ha ricevuto in Udienza S.E. il Signor János Balassa, Ambasciatore di Ungheria presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali.

Pubblichiamo di seguito il discorso che il Santo Padre ha rivolto al nuovo Ambasciatore, nonché i cenni biografici essenziali di S.E. il Signor János Balassa:

#### **• DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE**

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to welcome you at the start of your mission and to accept the Letters accrediting you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Hungary to the Holy See. I thank you for your kind words and for the greetings you bring from President László Sólyom. Please convey to him my respectful good wishes and the assurance of my prayers for all the people of your nation.

The Holy See's reestablishment of full diplomatic relations with the countries of the former Eastern bloc, after the momentous events of 1989, opened up new horizons of hope for the future. In the twenty years that have passed since, Hungary has made great progress in establishing the structures of a free and democratic society, able and willing to play its part in an increasingly globalized world community. As you have observed, the forces that govern economic and political affairs in the modern world need to be properly directed – they need, in other words to be built upon an ethical foundation, giving priority always to the dignity and the rights of the human person and the common good of humanity. In view of its strong Christian heritage, stretching back over a thousand years, Hungary is well placed to assist in the promotion of these humane ideals within the European community and the wider world community, and it is my hope that our diplomatic relations will serve to support this vital dimension of your country's contribution to international affairs.

The experience of newly gained freedom has, at times, brought with it the risk that those same Christian and human values, so deeply rooted in the history and culture of individual peoples, and indeed of the whole continent of Europe, can be supplanted by others, based on unsound visions of man and his dignity and harmful to the development of a truly flourishing society. In my 2008 World Day of Peace Message, I stressed the primordial importance of the family for building peaceful community relations at every level. In much of modern Europe the vital cohesive role that the family has to play in human affairs is being called into question and even endangered as a result of misguided ways of thinking that at times find expression in aggressive social and political policies. It is my earnest hope that ways will be found of safeguarding this essential element of our society, which is the heart of every culture and nation. One of the specific ways government can support the family is by assuring that parents are allowed to exercise their fundamental right as the primary educators of their children, which would include the option to send their children to religious schools when they so desire.

The Catholic Church in Hungary has lived with particular intensity the transition between the period of totalitarian government and the freedom that your country now enjoys. After decades of oppression, sustained by the heroic witness of so many Christians, she has emerged to take her place in a transformed society, able once more to proclaim the Gospel freely. She seeks no privileges for herself, but is eager to play her part in the life of the nation, true to her nature and mission. As the process continues of implementing the agreements between Hungary and the Holy See – I think of the recently signed memorandum on religious assistance for the armed forces and border police - I am confident that any outstanding questions affecting the life of the Church in your country will be resolved in the spirit of good will and fruitful dialogue which has characterized our diplomatic relations ever since they were so happily restored.

Your Excellency, I pray that the diplomatic mission which you begin today will further strengthen the bonds of friendship that exist between the Holy See and the Republic of Hungary. I assure you that the various departments of the Roman Curia are always ready to offer help and support in the fulfilment of your duties. With my sincere good wishes, I invoke upon you, your family, and all your fellow citizens abundant blessings of peace and prosperity. May God bless Hungary!

**S.E. il Signor János Balassa,  
Ambasciatore di Ungheria presso la Santa Sede**

È nato a Budapest il 15 settembre 1951.

È sposato ed ha quattro figlie.

Laureato in Relazioni Internazionali, ha conseguito un *master* in Economia (Università di Budapest).

Dopo avere svolto attività dirigenziali presso aziende private (1972-1981), ha intrapreso la carriera diplomatica ricoprendo i seguenti incarichi: *Desk officer* presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (1981-1987); Segretario di Ambasciata a Lagos (1988-1992) *Desk officer* presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (1992-1993); Incaricato d'Affari a.i. a Nairobi (1993); Capo di Divisione presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (1993-1996); Ambasciatore in Nigeria, Costa d'Avorio, Ghana e Benin, con sede a Lagos ed a Abuja (1996-2001); Capo di Divisione presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (2001-2002); Vice Capo (2002) e successivamente Capo di Dipartimento presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (2002-2004); Ambasciatore di Irlanda (2004-2007); Capo di Dipartimento presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (2007-2008).

Oltre la lingua madre, parla l'inglese ed il russo.

[00197-02.01] [Original text: English]

### **MESSAGGIO DEL SANTO PADRE BENEDETTO XVI A SUA SANTITÀ KIRILL, PATRIARCA DI MOSCA E DI TUTTE LE RUSSIE, IN OCCASIONE DELLA SUA INTRONIZZAZIONE**

Domenica 1° febbraio si sono svolte a Mosca, nella Cattedrale di Cristo Salvatore, le solenni celebrazioni di intronizzazione del nuovo Patriarca di Mosca e di tutte le Russie, Sua Santità Kirill.

Il Santo Padre, che aveva espresso al nuovo Patriarca, subito dopo l'elezione, il suo augurio e assicurato il ricordo nelle sue preghiere, ha inviato a dette celebrazioni una Delegazione guidata dall'Em.mo Card. Walter Kasper, Presidente del Pontificio Consiglio per la Promozione dell'Unità dei Cristiani, e composta da S.E. Mons. Brian Farrell, L.C., Segretario dello stesso Dicastero, da S.E. Mons. Antonio Mennini, Rappresentante della Santa Sede presso la Federazione Russa, da S.E. Mons. Paolo Pezzi, F.S.C.B., Arcivescovo dell'Arcidiocesi "Madre di Dio a Mosca" e dal Rev.do P. Milan Žust, S.I., Ufficiale del menzionato Pontificio Consiglio.

Il Papa ha affidato all'Em.mo Card. Walter Kasper per il Patriarca Kirill un suo Messaggio e il dono di un calice, pegno del desiderio di giungere presto alla piena comunione.

Pubblichiamo qui di seguito il testo del Messaggio del Santo Padre Benedetto XVI:

• **MESSAGGIO DEL SANTO PADRE**

To His Holiness Kirill  
Patriarch of Moscow and of All Russia

I greet Your Holiness with joy as you undertake the great responsibility of shepherding the venerable Russian Orthodox Church. I readily recall the good will which characterized our meetings at the time of your service as President of the Department of External Church Relations. On the occasion of your enthronement I wish, therefore, to reaffirm my esteem and my spiritual closeness. I pray that our heavenly Father will grant you the abundant gifts of the Holy Spirit in your ministry and enable you to guide the Church in the love and peace of Christ.

You are now the successor of our beloved brother of revered memory, His Holiness Alexy II, who left his people a deep and abiding inheritance of ecclesial renewal and development, as he led the Russian Orthodox Church out of the long and difficult period of suffering under the totalitarian and atheistic system to a new, active presence and service in today's society. Patriarch Alexis II worked assiduously for the unity of the Russian Orthodox Church and for communion with the other Orthodox Churches. He likewise maintained a spirit of openness and cooperation with other Christians, and with the Catholic Church in particular, for the defence of Christian values in Europe and in the world. I am certain that Your Holiness will continue to build on this solid foundation, for the good of your people and for the benefit of Christians everywhere.

As President of the Department of External Church Relations, you yourself played an outstanding role in forging a new relationship between our Churches, a relationship based on friendship, mutual acceptance and sincere dialogue in facing the difficulties of our common journey. It is my earnest hope that we will continue to cooperate in finding ways to foster and strengthen communion in the Body of Christ, in fidelity to our Saviour's prayer that all may be one, so that the world may believe (cf. *Jn 17:21*).

Conscious of the enormous responsibilities which accompany the spiritual and pastoral ministry to which the Holy Spirit has called you, I renew to Your Holiness the assurance of my prayers and fraternal good will. I ask Almighty God to bless you with his love, to watch over the beloved Russian Church, and to sustain the Bishops, priests and all the faithful in the unending hope which is ours in Christ Jesus.

From the Vatican, 28 January 2009

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

[00198-02.01] [Original text: English]

**AVVISO DI CONFERENZA STAMPA**

Si informano i giornalisti accreditati che **domani, martedì 3 febbraio 2009, alle ore 11.30**, nell'*Aula Giovanni Paolo II* della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede, si terrà una Conferenza Stampa di **presentazione del Messaggio del Santo Padre per la Quaresima 2009 sul tema "Gesù, dopo aver digiunato quaranta giorni e quaranta notti, alla fine ebbe fame" (Mt 4, 2)**.

Interverranno:

**Em.mo Card. Paul Josef Cordes**, Presidente del Pontificio Consiglio "Cor Unum";

**Mons. Karel Kasteel**, Segretario del Pontificio Consiglio "Cor Unum";

**Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso**, Sotto-Segretario del medesimo Pontificio Consiglio;

**Sig.ra Josette Sheeran**, Direttore Esecutivo del Programma Alimentare Mondiale delle Nazioni Unite (WFP).

[00157-01.01]

[B0078-XX.03]

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