UDIENZA AI MEMBRI DELLA "PAPAL FOUNDATION"

Alle ore 12 di questa mattina, nella Sala Clementina del Palazzo Apostolico Vaticano, il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI riceve in Udienza i Membri della "Papal Foundation", in occasione della loro annuale visita a Roma, e rivolge loro le parole di saluto che riportiamo di seguito:

● SALUTO DEL SANTO PADRE

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to welcome you, the members of the Papal Foundation, on the occasion of your annual visit to Rome. During this Easter season, marked by spiritual joy and gratitude for the gift of our new life in Christ, I pray that this pilgrimage to the tombs of the apostles and martyrs will renew all of you in your love for the Lord and his Church.

This meeting gives me a welcome opportunity to renew my thanks for the important contribution which the Foundation makes to the Church's mission by its promotion of charities close to the heart of the Pope. I am most grateful for your involvement in projects aimed at integral human development, your encouragement of the apostolic activities of dioceses and religious congregations throughout the world, your concern for the education of the Church's future leaders and your support for the activities of the Holy See. The Papal Foundation was born as a means of demonstrating practical solidarity with the Successor of Peter in his solicitude for the universal Church. May you see your commitment to the ideals of the Foundation as a privileged expression of your Christian engagement in the Church and before the world. In this way, you will testify that the Church is missionary by her very nature; for "it is our responsibility to pass on what, by God's grace, we ourselves have received" (*Verbum Domini*, 91).

Dear friends, with these sentiments and with affection in the Lord, I commend you and your families to the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church, and cordially impart my Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of Easter joy and peace.

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