

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLIS

BOLLETTINO

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 0541

Lunedì 27.10.2003

Pubblicazione: Immediata

Sommario:

◆ **LE UDIENZE**

◆ **UDIENZA AI MEMBRI DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE "PRO PETRI SEDE" E DELL'ORGANIZZAZIONE "ETRENNES PONTIFICALES"**

◆ **INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE AL VI COMITATO DELLA 58a ASSEMBLEA GENERALE DELLE NAZIONI UNITE SULLA CONVENZIONE INTERNAZIONALE CONTRO LA CLONAZIONE UMANA**

◆ **INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE AL TERZO COMITATO DELLA 58a ASSEMBLEA GENERALE DELLE NAZIONI UNITE SULLA PROMOZIONE E LA PROTEZIONE DEI DIRITTI DEI BAMBINI**

◆ **LE UDIENZE**

LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

Ecc.mi Presuli della Conferenza Episcopale delle Filippine in Visita "ad Limina Apostolorum":

S.E. Mons. Paciano B. Aniceto, Arcivescovo di San Fernando;

S.E. Mons. Diosdado A. Talamayan, Arcivescovo di Tuguegarao;

S.E. Mons. Jesus C. Galang, Vescovo di Urdaneta;

S.E. Mons. Honesto F. Ongtioco, Vescovo di Cubao;

S.E. Mons. Gabriel V. Reyes, Vescovo di Antipolo;

S.E. Mons. Antonio R. Tobias, Vescovo di San Fernando de la Union;

Membri dell'Associazione "Pro Petri Sede", e dell'Organizzazione "Etrennes Pontificales", dal Belgio.

[01669-01.01]

UDIENZA AI MEMBRI DELL'ASSOCIAZIONE "PRO PETRI SEDE" E DELL'ORGANIZZAZIONE "ETRENNES PONTIFICALES"

Alle 11.30 di questa mattina, nella Sala Clementina del Palazzo Apostolico Vaticano, il Santo Padre Giovanni Paolo II ha ricevuto in Udienza i Membri dell'Associazione "Pro Petri Sede" e dell'Organizzazione "Etrennes Pontificales" dal Belgio ed ha loro rivolto il discorso che riportiamo di seguito:

• DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE

Chers Amis,

Je suis heureux de vous saluer, vous les membres de l'Association *Pro Petri Sede* et de l'Association *Étrennes pontificales*, venus ensemble à Rome pour manifester les liens nouveaux qui unissent vos deux organisations et surtout pour exprimer votre attachement commun au Siègne de Pierre.

Depuis de nombreuses années, vous veillez à garder vivant dans vos diocèses et dans vos paroisses l'esprit de communion qui caractérise l'Église catholique et qui s'exprime dans l'ouverture de chaque Église aux autres Églises, autour du Siègne de Pierre, garant de l'unité et de la communion entre toutes. Ce sens de la communion ecclésiale s'exprime d'une manière particulière par la pratique de la charité et le souci du partage fraternel, de sorte que les plus favorisés aident les plus démunis (cf. 2 Co 8, 13-15) et que l'Église soit vraiment le Corps du Christ, dans lequel chaque membre se sent solidaire de tous les autres (cf. 1 Co 12, 25-26).

Le Pape vous sait gré de l'aide généreuse et fidèle que vos associations apportent ainsi à l'Église, pour qu'elle poursuive, dans ses communautés et dans le monde, son action spirituelle et matérielle en faveur de tous et principalement en faveur des plus pauvres de nos frères, afin que leur dignité soit davantage et partout respectée. Je vous demande donc d'exprimer à tous les membres de vos associations ma vive gratitude pour leurs dons et pour leur engagement. Qu'ils sachent toujours, dans leur vie quotidienne, se montrer attentifs aux plus petits pour leur exprimer ainsi l'amour de Dieu «qui ne fait pas de différence entre les hommes» (Ac 10, 34) !

Chers pèlerins, en vous confiant, vous et vos familles, à l'intercession maternelle de la Vierge Marie, que nous vénérons spécialement en ce mois comme Notre-Dame du Rosaire, je vous accorde de grand cœur une particulière Bénédiction apostolique, que j'étends à tous les membres de vos deux associations et à leurs proches.

[01672-03.02] [Texte original: Français]

INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE AL VI COMITATO DELLA 58a ASSEMBLEA GENERALE DELLE NAZIONI UNITE SULLA CONVENZIONE INTERNAZIONALE CONTRO LA CLONAZIONE UMANA

Pubblichiamo di seguito l'intervento sul punto 172 dell'agenda della 58a Assemblea Generale delle Nazioni Unite "*International convention against the cloning of human beings*", che il Capo della Delegazione della Santa Sede, S.E. Mons. Celestino Migliore, ha rivolto il 21 ottobre scorso nell'ambito dei lavori del VI Comitato dell'Assemblea Generale:

• INTERVENTO DI S.E. MONS. CELESTINO MIGLIORE

Mr. Chairman,

After only a short time since my delegation's intervention last September 29th, I am taking the floor again, with pleasure, in this current debate on human cloning.

It is indeed encouraging to note that this debate in the Sixth Committee is attracting increased attention and gaining factual contributions from delegations and from various sectors of the civil society represented at the United Nations.

My delegation has presented its views in a position paper, circulated by the Working Group on the occasion of the first session of this debate, a couple weeks ago. During that meeting, my delegation reaffirmed the conviction that only a comprehensive convention on human cloning can address all the related issues and respond to the challenges of the twenty-first century on this topic. Situations that pose grave dangers to human dignity can only be effectively addressed by international agreements that are comprehensive, not partial. While a partial convention might address temporarily some issues related to human cloning, it could generate subsequently greater problems, even more difficult to solve. The most durable solution should therefore be an all-inclusive legal instrument. Moreover, an all-inclusive convention can provide a binding legal instrument that could guide and enable States to formulate appropriate domestic legislation on human cloning.

My delegation has noticed with satisfaction that the time of reflection and meeting of minds of the past two weeks has yielded an increase of co-sponsorships and support for the proposal put forward by Costa Rica. Also in light of this, my delegation wishes to reaffirm its view that the matter before us can be resolved through the earliest ban on human embryonic cloning.

It must be clear that the position my delegation takes is not, in the first instance, a religious one. It is a position informed by the process of reason that is in turn informed by scientific knowledge.

We have heard a number of statements from a variety of delegations that this is a "complex" issue. We have also heard pleas that we must avoid divisiveness, that we must not impose views, and that we must strive toward a consensus on this item for time is running short. We have also been reminded that the matter of research cloning must be sensitive to diverse belief systems and religious perspectives, cultures, and personal circumstances. It has been stated on several occasions that whilst we must move quickly to ban human reproductive cloning we must, on the contrary, move slowly on human research cloning.

Some delegations have put forward proposals with a view to promote freedom from certain regulation—the freedom from the imposition of a universal obligation against research or therapeutic cloning. The very juridical instrument of a Convention, which can be acceded to or not, I believe, does guarantee such a freedom. However, I would like to mention another important freedom. This, Mr. Chairman, is the freedom for life itself which is the core norm of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. To be free for the protection of human life is the reality underpinning our work here in this Committee.

Mr. Chairman, the science may be complex, but the issue for us is simple and straightforward. The matter of human cloning that involves the creation of human embryos is the story of the beginning of human life—a life that is not just a local issue, not a national issue, not a regional issue. It is above all a universal issue, because an

embryo is a human being regardless of its geography. If reproductive cloning of human beings contravenes the law of nature—a principle with which all delegations appear to agree—so does the cloning of the same human embryo that is slated for research purposes. A cloned embryo, which is not destined for implantation into a womb but is created for the sole purpose of extraction of stem cells and other materials, is destined for pre-programmed destruction.

Some would argue, Mr. Chairman, that whilst we must act quickly to ban human reproductive cloning, we must take more time to study all aspects of research cloning—a procedure that intentionally destroys human life. How many human lives are we willing to take in this process? Since the process is unnecessary and would require more than one embryo per patient treated, hundreds of millions of cloned human embryos would be required to treat even one disease, such as diabetes, in any developed nation.

In closing, my delegation wants to remind this distinguished assembly that one of the fundamental missions of the United Nations is to uphold the rights of all human beings. If the United Nations were to ban reproductive cloning without banning cloning for research, this would, for the first time, involve this body in legitimizing something extraordinary: the creation of human beings for the express purpose of destroying them. If human rights are to mean anything, at any time, anywhere in the world, then surely no one can have the right to do such a thing. Human rights flow from the recognition that human beings have an intrinsic dignity that is based on the fact that they are human. Human embryos are human, even if they are cloned. If the rest of us are to have the rights that flow from the recognition of this dignity, then we must act to ban cloning in all its forms.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[01670-02.02] [Original text: English]

INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE AL TERZO COMITATO DELLA 58a ASSEMBLEA GENERALE DELLE NAZIONI UNITE SULLA PROMOZIONE E LA PROTEZIONE DEI DIRITTI DEI BAMBINI

Il 20 ottobre 2003, nell'ambito dei lavori del Terzo Comitato della 58a Assemblea Generale delle Nazioni Unite, S.E. Mons. Celestino Migliore, Capo della Delegazione della Santa Sede, è intervenuto sul punto 113 dell'agenda: "*Promotion and protection of the right of children*".

Riportiamo qui di seguito il testo dell'intervento:

● INTERVENTO DI S.E. MONS. CELESTINO MIGLIORE

Mr. Chairman,

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child entered into force in September 1990. That same month, a World Summit for Children was held to adopt the Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children and a decade-long Plan of Action for its implementation. When world leaders gathered here in the Year 2000 to adopt the Millennium Declaration, children were once again at the center of the concern of this body. In May last year, the XXVII special session of the General Assembly on Children adopted the document, "A World Fit for Children". All these endeavors combine to demonstrate the commitment of the international community to ensure that every child is able to enjoy a better future.

Unfortunately, as we know so well, the situation of children in the world is not always how it should be. Every day, countless children around the world are exposed to dangers and abuse which stunt their growth and development. They suffer immensely as casualties of war and violence; as victims of neglect, cruelty, sexual and other forms of exploitation, racial discrimination, aggression, foreign occupation; as refugees and displaced children. They are often marginalized because they are indigenous, disabled, orphans or street children. In

several countries, they are also victims of the scourge of drugs and of natural and man-made disasters. And if all these were not enough, millions of children also become victims of HIV/AIDS, either through mother-to-child viral transmission or by being orphaned due to the AIDS-related premature death of their parents.

In his report on Implementation of the United Nations Millennium Declaration (A.58/323), the Secretary-General states: "It is unacceptable that, in spite of broad advances in children's health in developing regions since 1990, nearly 11 million children die each year before reaching their fifth birthday, mostly from easily preventable or treatable causes". Infant and child mortality rate could be lowered dramatically with means that are already known and readily available in the market, but tragically beyond the reach of most of the children in need.

These are challenges that the international community must meet, especially within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals. Improving child health and nutrition is a priority. The international community should work for optimal growth and development in childhood, with measures to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and famine, and thus to spare millions of children from unnecessary sufferings in a world that has the means to feed and care for all its citizens. In addition, basic education should be made accessible to the millions of the world's children who are otherwise bound to illiteracy.

On the other hand, children should also be encouraged to contribute their own small efforts in building a better future for their peers around the world, making use of their talents and gifts for their personal growth and for the good of society. The Holy See has an international association for children called Pontifical Society of the Holy Childhood which was founded in the mid-nineteenth century. Its motto is "Let children help children". For more than a hundred years now, this Society have constantly shared their talent, time and treasure to help ameliorate the life of other poor children around the world.

In promoting the well-being of children, the family, as the fundamental unit of society and the natural environment for the growth and development of children, should be given all the necessary protection and assistance. It is in the family that the rights of children are respected best, in accordance with the principles of solidarity and subsidiarity. The concern for the child, while it is a challenge to society as a whole, is primarily and more directly a challenge to families. The Holy See has always affirmed that parents have the duty and the right to be the first and the principal educators of their children. The need for a set of norms to protect the various rights of the child is necessary also because of the lack of a real family policy that is fully guaranteed by law. Moreover, in the context of the upcoming celebration of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, efforts should be intensified to recognize the social role of the family based on marriage which is irreplaceable for the common good. To protect the family means to protect the children.

In our day and age, the recognition of the rights of the child has undoubtedly made progress. But the violation of these rights in practice, exemplified by the many terrible assaults on their innocence and dignity, remains a cause for distress and, at the same time, calls us into action. We must see to it that the welfare of the child is always given priority during all the stages of its development, right from the moment of its conception when they become individual human beings. The international community should assure the well-being of children through political action at the highest level; for, in the end, the attention we give now for the well-being of the children is an assurance for the well-being of society, now and in the future.

Since children are in need of almost everything, they can only spend a peaceful and joyful childhood when they have our solidarity and care. We must not fail them.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

[01671-02.02] [Original text: English]

[B0541-XX.02]

