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COMUNICATO DEL PONTIFICIO CONSIGLIO DELLE COMUNICAZIONI SOCIALI

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"The Communications Media: at the Service of Understanding between Peoples" is the theme chosen by Pope John Paul II for World Communications Day 2005.

"The theme chosen by the Holy Father," said Archbishop John P. Foley, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, the department of the Vatican which prepares study materials on the theme for distribution to bishops' conferences, "reflects his desire that the media contribute to an authentic dialogue and mutual comprehension among peoples, leading to understanding, to justice and to an enduring peace."

World Communications Day, the only worldwide celebration called for by the Second Vatican Council ("Inter Mirifica", 1963), is celebrated in most countries, on the recommendation of the bishops of the world, on the Sunday before Pentecost (in 2005, May 8).

The announcement of the theme is made on September 29, the Feast of the Archangels Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, who has been designated as the patron of those who work in radio.

The Holy Father's message for World Communications Day is traditionally published in conjunction with the Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, patron of writers (January 24), to allow bishops' conferences and diocesan offices sufficient time to prepare audiovisual and other materials for national and local celebrations.

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