



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE  
**BOLLETTINO**

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Sommario:

- ◆ **INTERVENTO DELLA SANTA SEDE ALLA 40ma SESSIONE DELLA COMMISSIONE SULLA POPOLAZIONE E SVILUPPO DEL CONSIGLIO ECONOMICO E SOCIALE DELLE NAZIONI UNITE**
- ◆ **COMUNICATO: ASSEMBLEA PLENARIA DELLA PONTIFICIA COMMISSIONE BIBLICA**
- ◆ **AVVISO AI GIORNALISTI: PRESENTAZIONE DEL LIBRO DI JOSEPH RATZINGER-BENEDETTO XVI "GESÙ DI NAZARET"**
- ◆ **AVVISO DI BRIEFING**

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Pubblichiamo di seguito l'intervento che l'Osservatore Permanente della Santa Sede presso l'Organizzazione delle Nazioni Unite, S.E. Mons. Celestino Migliore, ha pronunciato martedì 10 aprile a New York, alla 40ma Sessione della Commissione sulla Popolazione e Sviluppo del Consiglio Economico e Sociale delle Nazioni Unite sul punto 4: "The changing age structures of populations and their implications for development":

● **INTERVENTO DI S.E. MONS. CELESTINO MIGLIORE**

Mr Chairman,

Indicators continue to suggest that by 2050 the world's population should stabilize at about nine billion. Although this implies that national populations will not need to be regulated as proposed by radical opinion in the past, this Commission should continue to serve a useful purpose in monitoring the demographic trends in all parts of the

world. In this regard, policy goals and the means to achieve them must remain sound and focused on the dignity of the human person.

This fortieth session of the Commission coincides with the fortieth anniversary of a document on population and development written by the late Pope Paul VI, known as *Populorum Progressio*, that is, *The Progress of Peoples*. At a time when the world was commonly divided into two blocs, East and West, the document focused instead on peoples and societies, whose conditions were marked not by being Eastern or Western, but by the levels of development and well-being in some parts of the world, in contrast to the degree of poverty and underdevelopment in others. The emphasis placed by the document on the individual and on societies, both as the primary focus of development policies and as protagonists of their own development, even today provides a sure guide for demographic policies to promote a culture respectful of the rights of the least-protected members of our human family, especially before birth and in extreme old age.

The reports made to the Commission this year suggest that dependency ratios are set to soar in some places, where an increasing number of elderly people will lay a heavier burden on the active population

It is to be hoped that states will work to foster respect for human life in all its stages and to find solutions that are right and just, not merely pragmatic. Here in particular, promoting solidarity between generations will be very valuable.

While by 2050 Europe is set to have an elderly dependency ratio similar to that of Africa's in the 1960s, Africa is set to have the lowest dependency ratio in the world. This projection should hand that Continent an unprecedented advantage in economic terms, as a young and numerous workforce should be available to it until at least 2050, while the demographic dividend in most other regions will have run out.

To assure that Africa will not miss this window of opportunity for economic development, it must be helped, inter alia, to invest in its human capital and infrastructure to underpin economic growth. Because many of this future work force are already born and are already of school age, my delegation believes that the most decisive investment to be made here is in education. The UN Secretariat estimates that to achieve primary education for all by 2015 would cost nine billion dollars estimated in 1998 dollar value. By any estimate, this can hardly be considered a high price to pay for such a prize.

Moreover, education, especially for girls and young women, can have a notable impact on population growth. As women become better educated, they gain greater respect; they become breadwinners; they acquire maturity in parental responsibility and a greater say in family affairs. Investing in people in this way, especially in education, is surely to be preferred to legal imposition of limits, to artificial corrective measures and drastic policies, and to the unacceptable practice of eliminating fetuses, especially females, in order to limit population growth.

Finally, since this Commission's 39th session last year, important initiatives have been both completed and launched, in particular concerning migrants, a topic of no small importance in relation to the changing age structures of populations. My delegation regards last year's High-Level Dialogue on International Migration and Development as having been useful and welcomes the offer of Belgium and other countries to maintain its momentum in the form of the forthcoming Global Forum on Migration and Development. It is to be hoped that the Forum will build upon what was achieved during the High-level Dialogue. There is almost no country in the world untouched by migration and it has become an extremely important source both of labour and of remittances depending on each country's circumstances. Therefore, it is in the interests of all states - not to mention the migrants themselves - that the Forum be allowed room to succeed.

Thank you, Mr Chairman.

**COMUNICATO: ASSEMBLEA PLENARIA DELLA PONTIFICIA COMMISSIONE BIBLICA**

La Pontificia Commissione Biblica terrà la sua annuale Assemblea plenaria dal 16 al 20 aprile 2007 presso la *Domus Sanctae Marthae* (Città del Vaticano), sotto la presidenza del Cardinale William J. Levada.

Il Rev.mo P. Klemens Stock, S.J., Segretario generale, dirigerà i lavori dell'assemblea.

Nel corso delle riunioni si concluderà l'approfondimento dello studio avente come tema il rapporto tra Bibbia e morale.

[00524-01.01]

**AVVISO AI GIORNALISTI: PRESENTAZIONE DEL LIBRO DI JOSEPH RATZINGER-BENEDETTO XVI "GESÙ DI NAZARET"**

Domani, venerdì 13 aprile, alle ore 16, nell'Aula del Sinodo presso l'Aula Paolo VI, avrà luogo la **presentazione pubblica del libro di Joseph Ratzinger-Benedetto XVI: "Gesù di Nazaret"**, che sarà in vendita nelle librerie da lunedì 16 aprile 2007 nelle edizioni italiana (Rizzoli), tedesca (Herder) e polacca (Wydawnictwo M).

Alla presentazione interverranno:

**Em.mo Card. Christoph Schönborn**, Arcivescovo di Vienna;

**Prof. Daniele Garrone**, Decano della Facoltà Valdese di Teologia di Roma;

**Prof. Massimo Cacciari**, Ordinario di Estetica all'Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele (Milano).

**Coordinerà P. Federico Lombardi, Direttore della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede.**

La cartella stampa e il volume in traduzione italiana del libro saranno messi a disposizione dei giornalisti a partire dalle ore 9.30 di domani, venerdì 13 aprile, con embargo fino alle ore 16 del giorno stesso.

La Conferenza Stampa sarà ripresa in diretta dal Centro Televisivo Vaticano.

Gli uffici della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede rimarranno aperti fino alla conclusione della Conferenza Stampa.

[00496-01.01]

**AVVISO DI BRIEFING**

Si informano i giornalisti accreditati che **martedì 17 aprile 2007, alle ore 11.30**, nell'*Aula Giovanni Paolo II* della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede, ha luogo un Briefing **sulla Visita del Santo Padre Benedetto XVI a Vigevano e Pavia e in particolare alla tomba di Sant'Agostino (21-22 aprile 2007).**

Interverranno:

**P. Federico Lombardi**, Direttore della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede;

**P. Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A.**, Priore Generale dell'Ordine di S. Agostino (Agostiniani);

**P. Vittorino Grossi, O.S.A.**, dell'Istituto Patristico *Augustinianum*;

**P. Giustino Casciano, O.S.A.**, Priore di San Pietro in Ciel d'Oro di Pavia.

[00527-01.02]

[B0191-XX.03]

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