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## ◆ **LE UDIENZE**

LE UDIENZE

Il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza, nel Palazzo Apostolico di Castel Gandolfo:

S.E. la Signora Mercedes Arrastia Tuason, nuovo Ambasciatore delle Filippine presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali;

S.E. la Baronessa Henriette Johanna Cornelia Maria van Lynden-Leijten, nuovo Ambasciatore dei Paesi Bassi presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali;

S.E. il Signor Miguel Humberto Díaz, nuovo Ambasciatore degli Stati Uniti d'America presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali.

Il Papa riceve questa mattina in Udienza:

Em.mo Card. Giovanni Lajolo, Presidente della Pontificia Commissione per lo Stato della Città del Vaticano, e del Governatorato dello Stato della Città del Vaticano;

S.E. Mons. Orlando Antonini, Arcivescovo tit. di Formia, Nunzio Apostolico in Serbia;

S.E. il Signor Raúl Roa Kourí, Ambasciatore di Cuba, con la Consorte, in visita di congedo.

Il Santo Padre riceve questo pomeriggio in Udienza:

Em.mo Card. Giovanni Battista Re, Prefetto della Congregazione per i Vescovi.

[01420-01.01]

## **LE LETTERE CREDENZIALI DELL'AMBASCIATORE DELLE FILIPPINE PRESSO LA SANTA SEDE**

Alle ore 11 di questa mattina, il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI ha ricevuto in Udienza S.E. la Signora Mercedes Arrastia Tuason, Ambasciatore delle Filippine presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali.

Pubblichiamo di seguito il discorso del Papa al nuovo ambasciatore, nonché i cenni biografici essenziali di S.E. la Signora Mercedes Arrastia Tuason:

### **• DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE**

Madam Ambassador,

Grateful for the kind words which you have addressed to me, I gladly accept the Letters of Credence accrediting you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Holy See. I would like to reciprocate the warm greetings which you have extended to me on behalf of Her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, and I would ask you to convey to her and to all the beloved Filipino people the assurance of my spiritual closeness and prayers, especially for the victims of Typhoon Ketsana.

For over half a century, the Holy See and the Philippines have maintained excellent diplomatic relations, strengthening their long-standing cooperation for the promotion of peace, human dignity and freedom. The spirit of good will which has brought us to this day will surely enkindle a fresh desire to work together so that justice and freedom go hand-in-hand, and that democratic principles be grounded in truth. For her part, in the midst of the many changing social, economic and political conditions around the globe, the Church continues to hold out the Gospel as the path to authentic human progress (cf. *Spe Salvi*, 23). I am confident that the faith of the Filipino people – a faith, as Your Excellency has indicated, which gives them the "resilience" to face any hardship or difficulty – will arouse in them a desire to participate ever more fervently in the worldwide task of building up a civilization of love, the seed of which God has implanted in every people and every culture.

Your Excellency, I am pleased to note the various development initiatives under way in your country, including the modernization of irrigation systems, the improvement of public transportation and the reform of social assistance programs. As the Philippines continues to implement these and other plans for a just and sustainable development, I am confident that she will draw upon all her resources – spiritual as well as material – so that her citizens may flourish in body and soul, knowing the goodness of God and living in solidarity with their neighbors. Such programs, of course, are primarily aimed at improving the actual living conditions of the poorest, thus enabling them to fulfill their responsibilities towards their families and to carry out the duties which fall to them as members of the wider community. Above all, the struggle against poverty calls for honesty, integrity and an unwavering fidelity to the principles of justice, especially on the part of those directly entrusted with the offices of governance and public administration.

In an age when the name of God is abused by certain groups, the "work of charity" (*Caritas in Veritate*, 57) is particularly urgent. This is especially true in regions that have been sadly scarred by conflicts. I encourage all to persevere so that peace may prevail. As you have mentioned, Madam Ambassador, initiatives that aim at facilitating dialogue and cultural exchange are particularly effective, for peace can never come about merely as the product of a technical process engineered through legislative, judicial or economic means. In the conviction that evil is only conquered with good (cf. *Rom 12:21*), many in your country are taking courageous steps to bring people together in order to foster reconciliation and mutual understanding. I am thinking in particular of the commendable work of the *Bishops Ulama Conference (BUC)*, the *Mindanao People's Conference*, as well as that of many grassroots organizations. The *Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation for Peace and Development*, which your country will host in December, also holds out the promise of advancing peace in Mindanao and throughout the world.

In closing, Madam Ambassador, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure the Filipino people of my affection and continued prayers for them. I encourage them to allow their deep faith, their cultural heritage and the democratic values that have been a part of their patrimony from the time of their independence to shine as an example to all.

Extending a cordial welcome to you and to your distinguished family, I offer you my best wishes that your stay in Rome may be pleasant, and that the important mission entrusted to you may consolidate relations between the Holy See and the Republic of the Philippines, to the benefit of all. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Truth, Justice and Holiness, may God bless the efforts of the authorities and citizens, so that your nation may walk the way of authentic human progress in an atmosphere of harmony and peace.

**S.E. la Signora Mercedes Arrastia Tuason,  
Ambasciatore delle Filippine presso la Santa Sede**

È nata a Lubao, Pampanga, il 27 settembre 1930.

È vedova. Ha sei figli.

È laureata in Scienze della Nutrizione (*St. Scholastica College*, 1953).

Ha svolto le seguenti attività: Membro del Consiglio Pastorale della Parrocchia-Santuario de San Antonio; Dirigente della Croce Rossa (1987-1993); Membro del Consiglio di Amministrazione della *Tuason Community Center Foundation* (1992-1995); dal 1986: Membro della Bigay Puso Foundation; dal 1989: Membro del Consiglio di Amministrazione del Center for Peace, Asia; dal 1990: Membro del Consiglio di Amministrazione della Hero Foundation; dal 1991: Membro della *Pro-Life Foundation Inc.*; dal 1991: Membro del Consiglio di Amministrazione della Evelio Javier Foundation; dal 1994: Tesoriere della *Family Values Foundation* delle Filippine; dal 1997: Membro della *Mission Angels*; dal 2000: Membro del Consiglio di Amministrazione della Our Lady of Mercy Halfway House Inc.; dal 2002: Membro del Consiglio della *Mission Society* delle Filippine; dal 2007 è anche Vice-Presidente del Consiglio di Amministrazione della Crociata per il Rosario delle Famiglie.

[01422-02.01] [Original text: English]

**LE LETTERE CREDENZIALI DELL'AMBASCIATORE DEI PAESI BASSI PRESSO LA SANTA SEDE**

Alle ore 11.20 di questa mattina, il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI ha ricevuto in Udienza S.E. la Baronessa Henriette Johanna Cornelia Maria van Lynden-Leijten, Ambasciatore dei Paesi Bassi presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali.

Pubblichiamo di seguito il discorso del Papa al nuovo ambasciatore, nonché i cenni biografici essenziali di S.E. la Baronessa H. J. C. Maria van Lynden-Leijten:

**• DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE**

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to welcome you to the Vatican and to accept the Letters accrediting you as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the Holy See. I would like to express my gratitude for the good wishes that you bring from Queen Beatrix. For my part, please convey to Her Majesty my cordial greetings and assure her of my continuing prayers for all the people of your nation.

In a world that is ever more closely interconnected, the Holy See's diplomatic relations with individual states afford many opportunities for cooperation on important global issues. In this light, the Holy See values its links with the Netherlands and looks forward to strengthening them further in years to come. Your country, as a founder member of the European Economic Community and home to several international juridical institutions, has long been at the forefront of moves to strengthen international cooperation for the greater good of the human family. Hence the mission on which you are about to embark is rich in opportunities for joint action to promote peace and prosperity in the light of the desire that both the Holy See and the Netherlands have, to help the human person.

The defence and promotion of freedom is a key element in humanitarian engagement of this kind, and it is one to which both the Holy See and the Kingdom of the Netherlands frequently draw attention. It must be understood, though, that freedom needs to be anchored in truth – the truth of the nature of the human person – and it needs to be directed towards the good of individuals and of society. In the financial crisis of the past twelve months, the whole world has been able to observe the consequences of exaggerated individualism that tends to favour single-minded pursuit of perceived personal advantage to the exclusion of other goods. There has been much reflection on the need for a sound ethical approach to the processes of economic and political integration, and more people are coming to recognize that globalization needs to be steered towards the goal of integral human development of individuals, communities and peoples – shaped not by mechanical or deterministic forces but by humanitarian values that are open to transcendence (cf. *Caritas in Veritate*, 42). Our world needs to "reappropriate the true meaning of freedom, which is not an intoxication with total autonomy, but a response to the call of being" (*ibid.*, 70). Hence the Holy See's conviction regarding the irreplaceable role of faith communities in public life and in public debate.

While some of the Dutch population would declare itself agnostic or even atheist, more than half of it professes Christianity, and the growing numbers of immigrants who follow other religious traditions make it more necessary than ever for civil authorities to acknowledge the place of religion in Dutch society. An indication that your Government does so is the fact that faith schools receive state support in your country, and rightly so, since such institutions are called to make a significant contribution to mutual understanding and social cohesion by transmitting the values that are rooted in a transcendent vision of human dignity.

Even more basic than schools in this regard are families built on the foundation of a stable and fruitful marriage between a man and a woman. Nothing can equal or replace the formative value of growing up in a secure family environment, learning to respect and foster the personal dignity of others, acquiring the capacity for "acceptance, encounter and dialogue, disinterested availability, generous service and deep solidarity" (*Familiaris Consortio*, 43; cf. *Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, 221) – in short, learning to love. A society, on the other hand, which encourages alternative models of domestic life for the sake of a supposed diversity, is likely to store up social consequences that are not conducive to integral human development (cf. *Caritas in Veritate*, 44, 51). The Catholic Church in your country is eager to play its part in supporting and promoting stable family life, as the

Dutch Bishops' Conference stated in its recent document on the pastoral care of young people and the family. It is my earnest hope that the Catholic contribution to ethical debate will be heard and heeded by all sectors of Dutch society, so that the noble culture that has distinguished your country for centuries may continue to be known for its solidarity with the poor and the vulnerable, its promotion of authentic freedom and its respect for the dignity and inestimable value of every human life.

Your Excellency, in offering my best wishes for the success of your mission, I would like to assure you that the various departments of the Roman Curia are ready to provide help and support in the fulfilment of your duties. Upon Your Excellency, your family and all the people of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, I cordially invoke God's abundant blessings.

**S.E. la Baronessa Henriette Johanna Cornelia Maria van Lynden-Leijten**  
**Ambasciatore dei Paesi Bassi presso la Santa Sede**

È nata a Gilze-Rijen il 9 ottobre 1950.

È sposata col Barone Carel Diederic Aernout van Lynden ed ha tre figlie.

Laureata in Scienze Sociali (Accademia di Amsterdam, 1973), si è specializzata in Filosofia ed in Lingua araba (Università di Amsterdam, 1979).

Intrapresa la carriera diplomatica nel 1980 presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri, ha ricoperto successivamente i seguenti incarichi: Funzionario Diplomatico presso le Ambasciate al Cairo, a Beirut, a Londra, presso la Rappresentanza Permanente dell'Unione Europea a Bruxelles e quindi presso la Direzione per la Cooperazione culturale e l'informazione all'estero del Ministero degli Affari Esteri a L'Aia. Primo collaboratore presso la Direzione per l'integrazione europea del Ministero degli Affari Esteri (1994-1998); Consigliere di Ambasciata in Austria (1998-2001); Ambasciatore in Bulgaria (2001-2005); Direttore del Dipartimento per l'Africa del Nord ed il Medio Oriente presso il Ministero degli Affari Esteri (2005-2009).

[01424-02.01] [Original text: English]

**LE LETTERE CREDENZIALI DELL'AMBASCIATORE DEGLI STATI UNITI D'AMERICA PRESSO LA SANTA SEDE**

Alle ore 11.40 di questa mattina, il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI ha ricevuto in Udienza S.E. il Signor Miguel Humberto Díaz, Ambasciatore degli Stati Uniti d'America presso la Santa Sede, in occasione della presentazione delle Lettere Credenziali.

Pubblichiamo di seguito il discorso che il Papa ha rivolto al nuovo Ambasciatore, nonché i cenni biografici essenziali di S.E. il Signor Miguel Humberto Díaz:

**• DISCORSO DEL SANTO PADRE**

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to accept the Letters by which you are accredited Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America. I recall with pleasure my meeting with President Barack Obama and his family last July, and willingly reciprocate the kind greetings which you bring from him. I also take this occasion to express my confidence that diplomatic relations between the United States and the Holy See, formally initiated twenty-five years ago, will continue to be marked by fruitful dialogue and cooperation in the promotion of human dignity, respect for fundamental human rights, and the service of justice, solidarity and peace within the whole human family.

In the course of my Pastoral Visit to your country last year I was pleased to encounter a vibrant democracy, committed to the service of the common good and shaped by a vision of equality and equal opportunity based

on the God-given dignity and freedom of each human being. That vision, enshrined in the nation's founding documents, continues to inspire the growth of the United States as a cohesive yet pluralistic society constantly enriched by the gifts brought by new generations, including the many immigrants who continue to enhance and rejuvenate American society. In recent months, the reaffirmation of this dialectic of tradition and originality, unity and diversity has recaptured the imagination of the world, many of whose peoples look to the American experience and its founding vision in their own search for viable models of accountable democracy and sound development in an increasingly interdependent and global society.

For this reason, I appreciate your acknowledgement of the need for a greater spirit of solidarity and multilateral engagement in approaching the urgent problems facing our planet. The cultivation of the values of "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness" can no longer be seen in predominantly individualistic or even national terms, but must rather be viewed from the higher perspective of the common good of the whole human family. The continuing international economic crisis clearly calls for a revision of present political, economic and financial structures in the light of the ethical imperative of ensuring the integral development of all people. What is needed, in effect, is a model of globalization inspired by an authentic humanism, in which the world's peoples are seen not merely as neighbors but as brothers and sisters.

Multilateralism, for its part, should not be restricted to purely economic and political questions; rather, it should find expression in a resolve to address the whole spectrum of issues linked to the future of humanity and the promotion of human dignity, including secure access to food and water, basic health care, just policies governing commerce and immigration, particularly where families are concerned, climate control and care for the environment, and the elimination of the scourge of nuclear weapons. With regard to the latter issue, I wish to express my satisfaction for the recent Meeting of the United Nations Security Council chaired by President Obama, which unanimously approved the resolution on atomic disarmament and set before the international community the goal of a world free of nuclear weapons. This is a promising sign on the eve of the Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

Genuine progress, as the Church's social teaching insists, must be integral and humane; it cannot prescind from the truth about human beings and must always be directed to their authentic good. In a word, fidelity to man requires fidelity to the truth, which alone is the guarantee of freedom and real development. For her part the Church in the United States wishes to contribute to the discussion of the weighty ethical and social questions shaping America's future by proposing respectful and reasonable arguments grounded in the natural law and confirmed by the perspective of faith. Religious vision and religious imagination do not straiten but enrich political and ethical discourse, and the religions, precisely because they deal with the ultimate destiny of every man and woman, are called to be a prophetic force for human liberation and development throughout the world, particularly in areas torn by hostility and conflict. In my recent visit to the Holy Land I stressed the value of understanding and cooperation among the followers of the various religions in the service of peace, and so I note with appreciation your government's desire to promote such cooperation as part of a broader dialogue between cultures and peoples.

Allow me, Mr. Ambassador, to reaffirm a conviction which I expressed at the outset of my Apostolic Journey to the United States. Freedom – the freedom which Americans rightly hold dear – "is not only a gift but also a summons to personal responsibility;" it is "a challenge held out to each generation, and it must constantly be won over to the cause of good" (*Address at the White House*, 16 April 2008). The preservation of freedom is inseparably linked to respect for truth and the pursuit of authentic human flourishing. The crisis of our modern democracies calls for a renewed commitment to reasoned dialogue in the discernment of wise and just policies respectful of human nature and human dignity. The Church in the United States contributes to this discernment particularly through the formation of consciences and her educational apostolate, by which she makes a significant and positive contribution to American civic life and public discourse. Here I think particularly of the need for a clear discernment with regard to issues touching the protection of human dignity and respect for the inalienable right to life from the moment of conception to natural death, as well as the protection of the right to conscientious objection on the part of health care workers, and indeed all citizens. The Church insists on the unbreakable link between an ethics of life and every other aspect of social ethics, for she is convinced that, in the prophetic words of the late Pope John Paul II, "a society lacks solid foundations when, on the one hand, it asserts values such as the dignity of the person, justice and peace, but then, on the other hand, radically acts to

the contrary by allowing or tolerating a variety of ways in which human life is devalued and violated, especially where it is weak or marginalized" (*Evangelium Vitae*, 93; cf. *Caritas in Veritate*, 15).

Mr. Ambassador, as you undertake your new mission in the service of your country I offer you my good wishes and the promise of my prayers. Be assured that you may always count on the offices of the Holy See to assist and support you in the fulfillment of your duties. Upon you and your family, and upon all the beloved American people, I cordially invoke God's blessings of wisdom, strength and peace.

#### **S.E. il Signor Miguel Humberto Díaz**

#### **Ambasciatore degli Stati Uniti d'America presso la Santa Sede**

È nato il 29 settembre 1963.

È sposato ed ha quattro figli.

Ha frequentato l'Università di Miami (1983-1985) e successivamente ha conseguito il baccalaureato in Storia (*St. Thomas University*, Miami Gardens, 1988). Quindi ha ottenuto un "*certificate*" in Filosofia (*St. John Vianney Seminary*, Miami, 1989) ed una specializzazione in Teologia (Università di *Notre Dame*, Indiana, 2000).

Docente dal 1991 in diversi istituti ed università cattoliche, dal 2004 è Professore di Teologia presso il *College of Saint Benedict/Saint John's University and Saint John's School of Theology Seminary*, a Minnesota.

Autore di numerose pubblicazioni in ambito religioso/teologico, è Presidente dell'*Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States of America* e Membro della *Karl Rahner Society* e della *Catholic Theological Society of America*.

Parla lo spagnolo, il francese e l'italiano, e conosce il greco, il tedesco ed il latino.

[01423-02.01] [Original text: English]

#### **TELEGRAMMA DI CORDOGGIO DEL SANTO PADRE PER LE VITTIME DELLE CALAMITÀ NATURALI IN INDONESIA**

Pubblichiamo di seguito il telegramma di cordoglio per le vittime delle calamità naturali avvenute nei giorni scorsi in Indonesia, inviato - a nome del Santo Padre - dal Cardinale Tarcisio Bertone, Segretario di Stato, a S.E. Mons. Leopoldo Girelli, Nunzio Apostolico in Indonesia:

#### **• TELEGRAMMA DEL SANTO PADRE**

DEEPLY SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE RECENT DEVASTATING EARTHQUAKES AFFECTING INDONESIA, HIS HOLINESS POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYS FOR THE VICTIMS AND THEIR GRIEVING FAMILIES, INVOKING ETERNAL REST UPON THE DECEASED AND DIVINE STRENGTH AND CONSOLATION ON ALL WHO ARE SUFFERING. HIS HOLINESS LIKewise ENCOURAGES THE RESCUE WORKERS AND ALL INVOLVED IN PROVIDING EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF THIS DISASTER TO PERSEVERE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO BRING RELIEF, COMFORT AND SUPPORT

CARDINAL TARCISIO BERTONE

SECRETARY OF STATE

[01425-02.01] [Original text: English]

#### **RINUNCE E NOMINE**

**• NOMINA DI MEMBRI ORDINARI DELLA PONTIFICIA ACCADEMIA DELLE SCIENZE SOCIALI**

Il Santo Padre ha nominato Membri Ordinari della Pontificia Accademia delle Scienze Sociali gli Ill.mi: Prof. Russell Hittinger, Docente di Filosofia e Religione presso l'Università di Tulsa (U.S.A.), e la Prof.ssa Janne Haaland Matlary, Docente di Politica Internazionale presso il Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche dell'Università di Oslo (Norvegia)

**Prof. Russell Hittinger**

Il Prof. Russell Hittinger è nato nel Commonwealth della Virginia (U.S.A.) nel 1949, si è laureato presso l'Università di Notre Dame, proseguendo poi con un Master e il Dottorato in Filosofia presso l'Università di St. Louis. Ha insegnato presso la Fordham University di New York, la Facoltà di Filosofia della Catholic University of America (Washington, D.C.) e presso il Dipartimento di Filosofia e Religione dell'Università di Tulsa, dove detiene la Cattedra di William K. Warren in Studi Cattolici. Ha inoltre insegnato presso l'Università di Princeton e presso il Providence College.

Esperto di teoria sociale, politica e giuridica, le sue ricerche più recenti sono state dedicate all'evoluzione della Dottrina Sociale della Chiesa, in particolare al magistero cattolico riguardante la natura e portata dello Stato. Attualmente sta preparando una pubblicazione su questo argomento per la Yale University Press. Nella primavera del 2008 ha tenuto una relazione presso la Pontificia Accademia delle Scienze Sociali sulla "Coerenza dei quattro principi fondamentali della Dottrina Sociale Cattolica". È Membro ordinario della Pontificia Accademia di San Tommaso d'Aquino dal 2004 e Consigliere della stessa Istituzione dal 2006.

**Prof.ssa Janne Haaland Matlary**

La Prof.ssa Janne Haaland Matlary, Docente di Politica Internazionale presso il Dipartimento di Scienze Politiche dell'Università di Oslo e presso il Collegio Universitario della Difesa Nazionale norvegese, è stata Segretario di Stato (Vice Ministro degli Esteri) per gli Affari Esteri della Norvegia dal 1997 al 2000. È Membro esperto della commissione del parlamento norvegese incaricata di proporre cambiamenti alla Costituzione norvegese per il suo 200° anniversario nel 2014. È stata Membro della Commissione di difesa nazionale della Norvegia ed è Membro del Consiglio di amministratori fiduciari del Centro per la pace e per i diritti umani di Oslo. È stata inoltre Membro norvegese della Task Force di alto livello per la Bielorussia. I suoi campi di ricerca principali riguardano la politica estera e di difesa europea e la politica di sicurezza internazionale.

È Membro del Pontificio Consiglio della Giustizia e della Pace e Consultore del Pontificio Consiglio per la Famiglia. Ha inoltre preso parte, in qualità di Capo Delegazione o Membro, alle Delegazioni della Santa Sede presso varie conferenze internazionali. Nel 2007 ha ricevuto il Premio San Benedetto, conferitole dalla Comunità benedettina di Subiaco per l'impegno a favore della cultura e della politica europee.

La Professoressa Janne Haaland Matlary è sposata, ha quattro figli ed è Dama del Sovrano Militare Ordine di Malta.

[01421-01.01]

[B0610-XX.01]

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