



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
AT THE BEGINNING OF THE HOLY MASS
CONCLUDING THE MEETING WITH HIS FORMER STUDENTS
(RATZINGER SCHÜLERKREIS)**

*Castel Gandolfo
Sunday, 29 August 2010*

Dear Friends,

At the end of today's Gospel the Lord makes us realize that we are continuing to live as pagans: in a spirit of reciprocity we invite only those who invite us, in turn giving to them what we receive from them. God's style is quite different: we experience it in the Blessed Eucharist. Deaf, blind and lame as we are before Him, he invites us to his table. He invites us, who have given nothing to him. In this we feel above all grateful for the fact that God exists, that God is as he is, that God is as Jesus Christ is, that he welcomes us even though we have nothing to give him and are sinners, that he invites us to his table and wishes to be at table with us. However, we also feel a sense of guilt at being so little different from pagans, of barely living this newness, in God's style. And for this reason let us begin Holy Mass by asking forgiveness; a forgiveness that transforms us, that truly makes us like God, in his image and likeness.

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