



The Holy See

***ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II
TO THE BOYS AND GIRLS
OF ITALIAN CATHOLIC ACTION***

Friday, 19 December 2003

Dear boys and girls of Italian Catholic Action,

This year too you have come to see me for Christmas; thank you for your enjoyable visit. I greet each of you with affection, together with the national President and the Assistant General of your Association. You that are gathered here represent all of your Youth Catholic Action friends, to whom I extend my most heartfelt greeting.

In a few days Christmas will be here, this great celebration that reminds us of the birth of Christ. Two thousand years ago he came into the world to save humanity and continues to come to visit us. May Our Lady, who gave birth to him at Bethlehem, help you to welcome him generously. Christ brings the gift of peace. I ask that you, dear boys and girls, make yourselves messengers of his peace in your families and among your friends.

Returning home, bring my Christmas greetings to your loved ones as well and do not forget to pray for the Pope.

From my heart I bless you!