



SECRÉTAIRERIE D'ÉTAT

SECTION
POUR LES AFFAIRES GÉNÉRALES

**On the occasion of the 41st General Assembly
of the Congregation of the Mission**

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI sends his cordial greetings to all the participants, assuring them of his fervent prayer that their efforts will contribute to a renewal of the annunciation of the Gospel to the poorest people. In this year, the 350th anniversary of the death of Saint Vincent de Paul, may all the priests and brothers of the Mission, call to mind that the missionary spirit demands that *they put on the spirit of Jesus Christ*. Be interior men, impregnated with the love of God. It is there you will find the courage to go and meet the poor face to face and announce to them the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Now that the Year of the Priest has just finished, may the Congregation of the Mission stay faithful to its vocation of forming priests alive with a missionary dynamism who will contribute to the renewing of the Church and the world with the spirit of the Gospel. The mission *ad gentes* should be for it a major preoccupation in this 150th anniversary of the death of Saint Justin de Jacobis, that good priest totally given to God and his mission. May you never lack the passionate spirit of your founder to “*run to the spiritual aid of your neighbor as to a fire*”!

Entrusting the participants of the General Assembly to the protection of St. Vincent de Paul and Saint Justin de Jacobis, also to the maternal intercession of Our Lady, the Holy Father sends to them an affectionate Apostolic Benediction, which he extends to all the members of the Congregation of the Mission and to the persons benefiting from their apostolate.

at Vatican, 8 June 2010

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone
Secretary of State of His Holiness

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R.P. Gregory GAY
Superior General of the Congregation of the Mission
ROME