



Sound the
Trumpets

April 15-17, 2008
Washington DC



PAPAL VISIT SUPPLEMENT

POPE BENEDICT XVI'S MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE OF USA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in the United States of America,

The grace and peace of God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all! I come to your country to begin my apostolic visit. But before setting off, I would like to offer you a heartfelt greeting and an invitation to prayer.

As you know, I shall only be able to visit two cities: Washington Dc and New York. The intention behind my visit, though is to reach out spiritually to all Catholics in the United States. At the same time, I earnestly hope that my presence among you will be seen as a fraternal gesture towards every ecclesial community, and a sign of friendship for members of other religious traditions and all men and women of goodwill. The Risen Lord entrusted the Apostles and the Church with his Gospel of love and peace, and his intention in doing so was that the message should be passed on to all peoples.

At this point, I should add some words of thanks, because I am conscious that many peoples have been working hard for a long time, both in Church circles and in public services, to prepare for my journey. I am specially grateful to all who have been praying for the success of the visit, since prayer is the most important element of all. Dear friends, I say this because I am convinced that without the power of prayer, without that intimate union with the Lord, our human endeavors would achieve



very little. Indeed this is what our faith teaches us. It is God who saves us, he saves the world, and all of history. He is the shepherd of his people. I am coming, sent by Jesus Christ, to bring you his word of life.

Together with your Bishops, I have chosen as the theme of my journey three simple but essential words: "Christ our hope." Following in the footsteps of my venerable predecessors Paul VI and John Paul II, I shall come to proclaim this great truth: Jesus is hope for all men and women of every language, race, culture and social condition. Yes, Christ is the face of God present among us. Through him, our lives reach fullness, and together, both as individuals and peoples, we can become a family united by fraternal love, according to the eternal plan of God the Father.

I know how deeply rooted this Gospel message is in your country. I am coming to share it with you, in a series of celebrations and

gatherings.

I shall also bring the message of Christian hope to the great Assembly of Nations, to the representatives of all the peoples of the world. Indeed, the world has greater need of hope than ever: hope for peace, for justice, and for freedom, but this hope can never be fulfilled without obedience to the law of God, which Christ brought to fulfillment in the commandment to love one another.

Do to others as you would have them do to you, and avoid doing what you would not want them to do. This "golden rule" is given in the Bible, but it is valid for all people, including non-believers. It is the law written on the human heart; on this we can all agree, so that when we come to address other matters, we can do so in a positive and constructive manner for the entire human community.

May God bless you all

HERE'S WHERE TO CATCH THE POPEMOBILE

The Pope's schedule during his three-day visit to Washington includes events that require tickets. But there are two opportunities when the general public can welcome the PopeMobile bearing the Pontiff, Benedict XVI along the streets of Washington DC, both of which are on April 16, Wednesday.

The first opportunity will be after the Pope's visit to the White House. Around noon, he will travel to the Vatican Embassy (Nunciature) at Massachusetts Ave., going west from the White House to Pennsylvania Avenue to Washington Circle. From there, the motorcade will negotiate Rock Creek Parkway and exit at Massachusetts Ave. after the Sheridan Circle to the Residence of the Papal Nuncio across the US Naval Observatory. **Suggested positions: 1) northern lane of Pennsylvania Ave. across the World Bank all the way to Washington Circle. 2) southern lane of Massachusetts Avenue from the Rock Creek exit past Sheridan all the way to the Vatican Embassy.** Lafayette Park in front of the White House and Washington Circle will be closed to the public.

The second opportunity will be later at approximately 4:15pm, the Pope will board the PopeMobile for a second motorcade from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops offices at 3211- 4th Street NE to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on Michigan Avenue, where he will meet the US bishops. The public can see the Pope along this route from the west side of 4th Street and from the south side of Michigan Avenue in front of and across the street from the Shrine.

This will supersede earlier announcements.