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Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
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Subseries: Chron File, 1989-1993

OA/ID Number: 13488
Folder ID Number: 13488-011

Folder Title:
Vatican Seminaria, 5/27/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	26	15	7	4

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary
(Rome, Italy)

For Immediate Release

May 27, 1989

REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT
TO THE AMERICAN SEMINARY AT THE VATICAN

The Vatican

7:18 P.M. (L)

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very, very much. What a neat welcome, thank you. (Applause.) I've got to go to supper, come on here. (Applause.) What a wonderful welcome. You remember the old American expression, often said of a group or an individual, "He hasn't got a prayer." Well, -- (laughter) -- I am delighted to meet an audience about whom that will never be said. (Laughter.) What a wonderful, wonderful welcome.

I'll just say a couple of things. Barbara and I want to thank you for this warm welcome, this touch of America to our European tour. And we're touched. When I heard from my friend, Frank Shakespeare, our Ambassador, how many would be here, I was surprised and touched.

As you know, I've just had an audience with His Holiness Pope John Paul II. He was so generous with his time and so generous with his thinking, and imparted to me once again his views on world peace and his views on how perhaps we can all work together to help in that regard. He has devoted his whole life to serving God. And the things that we focused on in this meeting were broad questions of peace and freedom and justice as they apply, or might be applied, all around the world.

So it's a talk that I'll long remember. I leave once again inspired by his moral and spiritual leadership and I know that that same leadership inspires everyone here -- all of you certainly as well, as has your faith, I might say in an Almighty through whom all things are possible:

I wish you well. I'd like -- less you don't recognize him -- to introduce not all of my colleagues, but our distinguished Secretary of State, my friend, Jim Baker over here. (Applause.) Next to him is my Chief of Staff, Governor John Sununu. (Applause.) And then next to him is General Brent Scowcroft, my National Security Advisor. (Applause.) I'm sure most of you recognize our Ambassador to the Vatican, Frank Shakespeare, and his daughter with him. (Applause.)

Bless you all. Thank you for this warm, warm welcome. And it makes me determined to leave here inspired as I am, redouble our efforts in every way possible for world peace, for strength, for the family, for freedom of religion and all the things that everybody here believes in.

Thank you for such a warm, cordial welcome. I can't tell you how good it makes me feel. (Applause.)

END

7:26 P.M. (L)

REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

O LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, FRIENDS. YOU KNOW, IT IS OFTEN SAID OF A GROUP OR INDIVIDUAL, "HE HASN'T GOT A PRAYER." WELL, I AM DELIGHTED TO MEET AN AUDIENCE ABOUT WHOM THAT WILL NEVER BE SAID.

- 2 -

O BARBARA AND I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING A WELCOME TOUCH OF AMERICA TO OUR EUROPEAN TOUR. WE ARE HONORED THAT SO MANY OF YOU HAVE TAKEN TIME OUT TO GREET US.

O AS YOU MAY KNOW, I HAVE JUST COME FROM AN AUDIENCE WITH HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II.

O HIS HOLINESS HAS DEVOTED HIS LIFE TO SERVING OTHERS BY SERVING GOD. AND MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIM FOCUSED ON MATTERS CLOSEST TO HIS HEART -- THINGS LIKE PEACE, FREEDOM, AND JUSTICE.

O OURS WAS A TALK I WILL LONG REMEMBER. AND I LEAVE INSPIRED BY HIS MORAL AND SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP. THAT LEADERSHIP, I KNOW, HAS INSPIRED YOU AS WELL. AS HAS YOUR FAITH IN AN ALMIGHTY THROUGH WHOM ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE.

- 5 -

O I WISH YOU WELL. AND GOD-SPEED AS YOU ACT AS
SERVANTS OF THE LORD. AGAIN, THANK YOU FOR COMING OUT
TO SEE US, AND FOR YOUR WARM WELCOME. GOD BLESS YOUR
WORK, AND GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

#

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/17/89 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES <i>N/C phone</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY <i>N/C</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON, Wednesday, May 17, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 15 PM 3 .

(Smith/Blessey)
May 13, 1989
Draft Three
CATH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

It is a great privilege to meet with such a distinguished group, on such a wonderful day, in this magnificent setting.

From here, you can see St. Peter's, and the Eternal City. And amid these pine trees which provide such beauty, you can feel the love of the Almighty who gives such beauty to life.

Barbara and I want to thank you for bringing a welcome touch of America to our European tour. We are truly honored that so many of you have taken time from your studies to greet us.

Believe me, I'm well-aware of your rigorous schedule. It reminds me, in fact, of a conversation the late Cardinal Spellman once had with a local businessman.

The Cardinal happened to remark that he was feeling rather tired. Whereupon the businessman asked, "Tell me, Your Eminence, with all the work you do, do you ever get so tired that you forget to say your prayers at night?"

"No," the Cardinal replied with a smile. "When I'm so tired I can't keep my eyes open, I simply say: 'Dear God, you know I've been working in your vineyard all day. If you don't mind, could we skip the details till morning?'"

My friends, you, too, work all day. You work in God's vineyard to glorify His name. And by devoting yourself to Christ, you embody the qualities that He asked us to heed.

And so does the man whom I have just had the honor of meeting. I have often said that any definition of a successful life must include serving others. Well, certainly His Holiness Pope John Paul II is a living example of that belief.

His Holiness has devoted his life to serving others by serving God and the gentler impulses of mankind. And my discussions with him focused on matters closest to his heart -- peace, freedom, and justice.

Ours was a talk I will long remember. And I leave inspired by his moral and spiritual leadership. That leadership, I know, has inspired you as well. As has your faith in a higher being through whom all things are possible.

I wish you well. And God-speed in your months and years of study to become servants of the Lord. And as I leave the Eternal City for Brussels to consult with our European allies, let me

leave you with the eternal symbol of peace: the dove. Let it soar freely to bless God's sky, and mold true good will among men.

Again, thank you for your warm welcome, and for coming out to see us. God bless your work, and God bless you all.

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REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

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#

3661

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	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMEYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON, Wednesday, May 17, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

May 17, 1989

The NSC concurs.

R. Gates for
Brent Scowcroft

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

89 MAY 16 A 7: 37

1989 MAY 15 PM 3:1

(Smith/Blessey)
May 13, 1989
Draft Three
CATH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIANS
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

It is a great privilege to meet with such a distinguished group, on such a wonderful day, in this magnificent setting.

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... leave you with the eternal symbol of peace: the dove. Let it soar freely to bless God's sky, and mold true good will among men.

Again, thank you for your warm welcome, and for coming out to see us. God bless your work, and God bless you all.

#

((Grant))
May 16, 1989
9 a.m.

TALKING POINTS -- WILSON HIGH SCHOOL VISIT
MAY 16, 1989

- o When I was in high school, they kept telling me I had to study hard and do my work every day. That way, I'd be prepared to choose a field to go into. The only problem is, the teachers were talking about entering the field of politics, or the field of law. I was talking about entering right field, center field, or playing first base.
- o Sports are important, but it's even more important to make a strong commitment to your education and your future.
- o This is a great pep rally -- an academic pep rally, instead of the usual pep rally for a football game or a baseball championship. I wish every high school in the country had your spirit and enthusiasm.
- o I've heard about Wilson High School, and just had to come see it myself. You're ranked #9 in the State of New York, and I want to congratulate you for your hard work and dedication.
- o You've done a great job as a school, and as individuals too -- students, parents and teachers working together. Keep up the fight, and God bless you.

Steph -

These can go on
cards, talking point
cards. Thanks! Kristen

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

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VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON, Wednesday, May 17, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
 Assistant to the President
 and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
 Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 15 PM 3 .

(Smith/Blessey)
May 13, 1989
Draft Three
CATH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

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The Cardinal happened to remark that he was feeling rather tired. Whereupon the businessman asked, "Tell me, Your Eminence, with all the work you do, do you ever get so tired that you forget to say your prayers at night?"

"No," the Cardinal replied with a smile. "When I'm so tired I can't keep my eyes open, I simply say: 'Dear God, you know I've been working in your vineyard all day. If you don't mind, could we skip the details till morning?'"

My friends, you, too, work all day. You work in God's vineyard to glorify His name. And by devoting yourself to Christ, you embody the qualities that He asked us to heed.

And so does the man whom I have just had the honor of meeting. I have often said that any definition of a successful life must include serving others. Well, certainly His Holiness Pope John Paul II is a living example of that belief.

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Ours was a talk I will long remember. And I leave inspired by his moral and spiritual leadership. That leadership, I know, has inspired you as well. As has your faith in a higher being through whom all things are possible.

I wish you well. And God-speed in your months and years of study to become servants of the Lord. And as I leave the Eternal City for Brussels to consult with our European allies, let me

leave you with the eternal symbol of peace: the dove. Let it soar freely to bless God's sky, and mold true good will among men.

Again, thank you for your warm welcome, and for coming out to see us. God bless your work, and God bless you all.

#

(Smith/Blessey)
May 17, 1989
Draft Five
CATH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

o Ladies and gentlemen, friends. You know, it is often said of a group or individual, "He hasn't got a prayer." Well, I am delighted to meet an audience about whom that will never be said.

o Barbara and I want to thank you for bringing a welcome touch of America to our European tour. We are honored that so many of you have taken time out to greet us.

o As you may know, I have just come from an audience with His Holiness Pope John Paul II.

o His Holiness has devoted his life to serving others by serving God. And my discussions with him focused on matters closest to his heart -- things like peace, freedom, and justice.

o Ours was a talk I will long remember. And I leave inspired by his moral and spiritual leadership. That leadership, I know, has inspired you as well. As has your faith in an Almighty through whom all things are possible.

o I wish you well. And God-speed as you act as servants of the Lord. Again, thank you for coming out to see us, and for your warm welcome. God bless your work, and God bless you all.

#

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MAY 17, 1989

INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON

FROM: CURT SMITH

SUBJECT: MAY 27 VATICAN SEMINARIA REMARKS

I. SUMMARY

On Saturday, May 27, following your audience with Pope John Paul II, you will address about 175 people -- Catholic clergy, lay people, and students of the North American College. The meeting will occur in the Clementine Room of the Vatican. ^S

II. DISCUSSION

The enclosed ^{talking points} ~~remarks~~ discuss the life of serving others embodied by the clergy, lay people, and students. The text also references your audience with the Pope.

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/15/89 ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/17/89 NOON

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	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

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RESPONSE:

*No Comment
5/17/89*

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

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*This is too formal for his
informal visit with US
seminarians - particularly
the dove list.
EWS*

RESPONSE:

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1533 MAY 15 PM 3 :

(Smith/Blessey)
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Again, thank you for your warm welcome, and for coming out to see us. God bless your work, and God bless you all.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON



May 16, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR CHRISS WINSTON
DEPUTY ASSISTANT TO THE PRESIDENT
FOR COMMUNICATIONS

FROM: MICHAEL J. ASTRUE *MA*
ASSOCIATE COUNSEL TO THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Proposed Presidential Remarks: Vatican
Seminaria

Counsel's office has reviewed the above-referenced Presidential remarks, and we have no legal objection to them.

Thank you for submitting these proposed remarks for our review.

cc: James W. Cicconi

WHITE HOUSE STAFFING MEMORANDUM

DATE: 5/15/89 ³² ACTION/CONCURRENCE/COMMENT DUE BY: 5/17/89 NOON

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA

	ACTION FYI			ACTION FYI	
VICE PRESIDENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MCCLURE	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SUNUNU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NEWMAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCOWCROFT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PORTER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DARMAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	STUDDERT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BATES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	UNTERMAYER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
BREEDEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROGERS	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CARD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINSTON	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
CICCONI	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DEMAREST	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FITZWATER	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
GRAY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
HAGIN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

REMARKS:

Please forward your comments to Chriss Winston, Rm. 122, x2930, no later than NOON, Wednesday, May 17, 1989, with an info copy to my office. Thank you.

RESPONSE:

No Comment

James W. Cicconi
Assistant to the President
and Deputy to the Chief of Staff
Ext. 2702

1989 MAY 15 21 3 .

(Smith/Blessey)
May 13, 1989
Draft Three
CATH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

It is a great privilege to meet with such a distinguished group, on such a wonderful day, in this magnificent setting.

From here, you can see St. Peter's, and the Eternal City. And amid these pine trees which provide such beauty, you can feel the love of the Almighty who gives such beauty to life.

Barbara and I want to thank you for bringing a welcome touch of America to our European tour. We are truly honored that so many of you have taken time from your studies to greet us.

Believe me, I'm well-aware of your rigorous schedule. It reminds me, in fact, of a conversation the late Cardinal Spellman once had with a local businessman.

The Cardinal happened to remark that he was feeling rather tired. Whereupon the businessman asked, "Tell me, Your Eminence, with all the work you do, do you ever get so tired that you forget to say your prayers at night?"

"No," the Cardinal replied with a smile. "When I'm so tired I can't keep my eyes open, I simply say: 'Dear God, you know I've been working in your vineyard all day. If you don't mind, could we skip the details till morning?'"

My friends, you, too, work all day. You work in God's vineyard to glorify His name. And by devoting yourself to Christ, you embody the qualities that He asked us to heed.

And so does the man whom I have just had the honor of meeting. I have often said that any definition of a successful life must include serving others. Well, certainly His Holiness Pope John Paul II is a living example of that belief.

His Holiness has devoted his life to serving others by serving God and the gentler impulses of mankind. And my discussions with him focused on matters closest to his heart -- peace, freedom, and justice.

Ours was a talk I will long remember. And I leave inspired by his moral and spiritual leadership. That leadership, I know, has inspired you as well. As has your faith in a higher being through whom all things are possible.

I wish you well. And God-speed in your months and years of study to become servants of the Lord. And as I leave the Eternal City for Brussels to consult with our European allies, let me

leave you with the eternal symbol of peace: the dove. Let it soar freely to bless God's sky, and mold true good will among men.

Again, thank you for your warm welcome, and for coming out to see us. God bless your work, and God bless you all.

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(Smith/Blessey)
May 13, 1989
Draft Three
CATH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

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From here, you can see St. Peter's, and the Eternal City. And amid these pine trees which provide such beauty, you can feel the love of the Almighty who gives such beauty to life.

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Believe me, I'm well-aware of your rigorous schedule. It reminds me, in fact, of a conversation the late Cardinal Spellman once had with a local businessman.

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Revised for A in setting of
to make more informal

(Smith/Blessey)
May 17, 1989
Draft Five
CATH

PRESIDENTIAL REMARKS: VATICAN SEMINARIA
THE VATICAN
SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1989

It is a great privilege to meet with such a distinguished group, on such a wonderful day.

We gather amid frescos of Saint Clemantine's life and the baptism of Constantine. And amid this art which provides such beauty, you can feel the love of the Almighty who gives such beauty to life.

Barbara and I want to thank you for bringing a welcome touch of America to our European tour. We are honored that so many of you have taken time out to greet us.

To you students, let me say in particular: I'm well-aware of your rigorous schedule. It reminds me, in fact, of a conversation the late Cardinal Spellman once had with a local businessman.

The Cardinal happened to remark that he was feeling rather tired. Whereupon the businessman asked, "Tell me, Your Eminence,

with all the work you do, do you ever get so tired that you forget to say your prayers at night?"

"No," the Cardinal replied with a smile. "When I'm so tired I can't keep my eyes open, I simply say: 'Dear God, you know I've been working in your vineyard all day. If you don't mind, could we skip the details till morning?'"

My friends, you, too, work all day -- clergy, students, lay people. You work in God's vineyard to glorify His name.

And so does the man whom I have just had the honor of meeting. I have often said that any definition of a successful life must include serving others. Well, certainly His Holiness Pope John Paul II is a living example of that belief.

His Holiness has devoted his life to serving others by serving God and the gentler impulses of mankind. And my discussions with him focused on matters closest to his heart -- peace, freedom, and justice.

Ours was a talk I will long remember. And I leave inspired by his moral and spiritual leadership. That leadership, I know, has inspired you as well. As has your faith in a higher being through whom all things are possible.

I wish you well. And God-speed as you act as servants of the Lord. And as I leave the Eternal City for Brussels to consult with our European allies, let me again thank you for your warm welcome -- and for coming out to see us.

God bless your work, and God bless you all.

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