



The Holy See

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO MEMBERS OF THE "PAPAL FOUNDATION"

*Clementine Hall
Friday, 17 April 2015*

[Multimedia]

*Your Eminence,
Dear Friends,*

I offer a warm welcome to you, the Members and Trustees, and Stewards of Saint Peter of The Papal Foundation who have come to Rome for your annual pilgrimage. Your visit to the tombs of the Apostles is a reverent sign of the communion with the See of Peter which has been the hallmark of the Foundation since its beginning. I pray that this experience may deepen your faith, and encourage you to give fresh expression in your living and transmitting the one, holy, catholic and apostolic faith that comes to us from the Apostles.

The wide variety of projects supported by the Foundation gives witness to the ceaseless efforts of the Church to promote the integral development of the human family, conscious as she is of the immense and ongoing needs of so many of our brothers and sisters. Wisely does The Papal Foundation devote a sizeable percentage of its resources to the education and formation of young priests, religious and lay men and women, hastening the day when their local Churches may be self-supportive, and, indeed, pass on the fruits of such generosity to others. I wish to reaffirm my gratitude for the hard work and sacrifice that your offering entails, and to assure you of my heartfelt prayers for you, your loved ones, and all those whom you support.

As the Church prepares for the coming Jubilee of Mercy, I ask our Lord Jesus Christ, “the face of the Father’s mercy” (*Misericordiae Vultus*, 1), to refresh and renew each one of you through his mercy, the greatest of his many gifts. May each of you experience the healing and freedom that come from the encounter of forgiveness and gratuitous love offered in the sacraments of Reconciliation and the Eucharist. I commend each of you and your families to the loving intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and that of Saint Peter. Upon you, I cordially impart my

Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace in Christ Jesus the Risen Savior.

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