



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS JOHN PAUL II
TO A DELEGATION FROM THE WORLD ISLAMIC LEAGUE PARTICIPATING IN A MEETING
SPONSORED BY
THE COMMUNITY OF SANT'EGIDIO**

Thursday, 28 January 1993

*Your Eminence,
Your Excellencies,
Dear Friends,*

I am pleased to welcome to the Vatican the distinguished members of a delegation from the *World Islamic League* taking part in meetings sponsored by the *Community of Sant'Egidio*. It is my hope that your discussions will promote better understanding between Muslims and Christians and more effective cooperation in the cause of peace.

At a time when conflicts and wars are causing immense suffering to members of the human family throughout the world, there is an urgent need for a witness by the followers of the different religions to our *common convictions regarding the dignity of man*. This is especially the case in those situations where religious differences have been invoked as a motive for animosity, violence and contempt for the rights of others. Christians and Muslims alike are called to combat the misuse of religion and to foster reconciliation and dialogue. As I said to the followers of Islam gathered in Assisi earlier this month, at the special prayer meeting for peace in Europe: "Your presence... proclaims that religious belief is a source of mutual understanding and harmony, and that only the perversion of religious sentiments leads to discrimination and conflict" (John Paul II, *Address to Representatives of the European Islamic Community in the Sacred Convent of Saint Francis in Assisi*, 3 [10 Jan. 1993]).

Dear friends: I am convinced that the various religions, now and in the future, must play an important part in preserving peace and in building a society worthy of man (cf. John Paul II,

Centesimus Annus, 60) . Your presence today is a sign of your desire to work together in order to create the necessary conditions for a just and peaceful world. I encourage you to continue your dialogue with patience and perseverance, and I cordially invoke upon you the choicest blessings of the Most High God.

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