



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER JOHN PAUL II
TO THE PRIESTS PARTICIPATING
IN THE JUBILEE OF PRIESTS GATHERED
FOR EVENING PRAYER IN SAINT PETER'S SQUARE**

Wednesday, 17 May 2000

Dear Priests, At the end of your third Jubilee day, I am pleased to extend a cordial greeting to you, anticipating in some way the joy of tomorrow's meeting and celebration. Today you are listening to the testimony of the saints. I am delighted at this because it renews the experience of the living Christ. Indeed, if the Great Jubilee commemorates the *Incarnation* of the Word in history, the saints are those brothers and sisters who *constitute a sort of extension* of this mystery, by virtue of their great docility to the Holy Spirit. In the long *line of chosen souls* who span the two millennia of the Christian era, there are *numerous priests* who in every generation made the holiness of Christ the Good Shepherd present among the People of God. The Church has also been blessed in the 20th century with holy priests - martyrs and confessors. Dear friends, let us follow in their footsteps, because the effectiveness of our ministry depends on this. This is the thought - and wish - that I leave you, as we prepare tomorrow to offer together our priestly thanksgiving.

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