



The Holy See

***FAREWELL ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II
TO THE MEMBERS
OF THE VARIOUS SECURITY FORCES***

*Les Combes, Valle d'Aosta
Saturday, 17 July 2004*

I will shortly be returning to Rome, and before taking my leave of these places, let me repeat the expression of my most cordial sentiments, dear Directors, Officials and Agents of the State Police, the Carabinieri, the Fiscal Police, the Penitentiary Police and the Forest Guard. During these days you have been my "guardian angels", who efficiently and discreetly saw to the success of my stay in the Valle d'Aosta. I warmly thank you for doing so. My heartfelt thanks also to you, dear Directors and Agents of the Vatican Police, always diligent in fulfilling your duty.

I will cherish vivid memories of the period I have spent here in Les Combes, and of the peaceful atmosphere that you too contributed to preserving in the vicinity of this cottage and in the neighbouring localities. I deeply appreciated your service that is far from easy. I am well aware of the sacrifice, effort and self-denial it involves, and I have noted the great competence and generosity with which you carry it out. May God reward you and help you always with his heavenly protection. I assure you of my special remembrance in prayer, for yourselves and for your families, as I bless you all with affection.