



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF JOHN PAUL II
TO H.E. MR NICANOR DUARTE FRUTOS
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF PARAGUAY***

Monday, 18 October 2004

Mr President, I am pleased to welcome you at this Audience on the occasion of your visit to Rome. I take this opportunity to express once again my affection for the People of Paraguay; please be so kind as to convey the Pope's greeting to them and the assurance of his remembrance in prayer. I hope that the Christian message, which penetrated the soul of this noble People and has borne fruits of holiness in St Roque Ruiz and his companion martyrs, may continue to offer inspiration and encouragement to all who are working for the development of Paraguay on the path of justice and solidarity. As I invoke the protection of the *Virgin of the Miracles of Caacupé* I wholeheartedly bless all

Paraguayans.

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