

Message from the Holy Father

SECRETARIAT OF STATE

No. 34.245

From the Vatican, 14 March 2006

Your Eminence,

In reply to Your Eminence's letter No. 2/06 of 8 March 2006, concerning the forthcoming *First Meeting of Directors of Catholic Cultural Centres in Africa*, I am pleased to transmit the following message:

His Eminence Cardinal Paul Poupard
President of the Pontifical Council for Culture

The Holy Father was pleased to be informed of the *First Meeting of Directors of Catholic Cultural Centres in Africa*, to take place in Lusaka, Zambia from 18 to 22 April 2006. He asks Your Eminence to convey to the delegates his appreciation of their commitment to explore together the chosen theme: *Catholic Cultural Centres: Cultural Resources for Reconciliation and Forgiveness*. As the Church in Africa seeks to shed the light of the Gospel upon the daily realities of life throughout the Continent, His Holiness prays that she will truly become "a redeemed and reconciled people in the midst of the world" and that she will promote "the fraternal coexistence of all peoples, since she transcends the distinctions of race and nationality". (*Ecclesia in Africa*, 137) Commending the work of the conference to the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Star of Evangelisation, he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing to Your Eminence and all the participants.

CARDINAL ANGELO SODANO
Secretary of State