



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

6 March 2006

N. 179

Your Excellency,

Upon being informed of the demise of the Most Rev. John Joseph Paul, Bishop emeritus of La Crosse, the Secretariat of State of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI has instructed me to convey the following Message:

THE MOST REVEREND JEROME E. LISTECKI
BISHOP OF LA CROSSE

SADDENED TO LEARN OF THE DEATH OF THE MOST REVEREND JOHN JOSEPH PAUL, THE HOLY FATHER HAS ASKED ME TO SEND HIS CONDOLENCES TO YOU AND TO THE CLERGY, RELIGIOUS AND LAITY OF THE DIOCESE. IN REMEMBERING BISHOP PAUL'S LONG YEARS OF FAITHFUL SERVICE TO THE CHURCH, HIS HOLINESS OFFERS FERVENT PRAYERS FOR HIS ETERNAL REST. INVOKING STRENGTH AND CONSOLATION UPON THE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE LATE BISHOP AND UPON ALL WHO MOURN HIS PASSING, THE HOLY FATHER CORDIALLY IMPARTS HIS APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

CARDINAL ANGELO SODANO
SECRETARY OF STATE

Please allow me to join the Holy Father in extending to you, to the family of Bishop John J. Paul, to the clergy and the faithful of La Crosse, my sympathy and unity in prayer. May the good Lord grant him eternal peace.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Archbishop Pietro Sambini
Apostolic Nuncio

The Most Reverend Jerome E. ListECKI
Bishop of La Crosse
3710 East Avenue S.
P.O. Box 4004
La Crosse, WI 54602-4004