



WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2013



POPE FRANCIS

GENERAL AUDIENCE

SAINT PETER'S SQUARE
WEDNESDAY, 27 MARCH 2013

[VIDEO]

Speaker:

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

On Palm Sunday we began Holy Week, the heart of the liturgical year, when we commemorate the great events that express most powerfully God's loving plan for all men and women. Jesus enters Jerusalem in order to give himself completely. He gives us his body and his blood, and promises to remain with us always. He freely hands himself over to death in obedience to the Father's will, and in this way shows how much he loves us. We are called to follow in his footsteps. Holy Week challenges us to step outside ourselves so as to attend to the needs of others: those who long for a sympathetic ear, those in need of comfort or help. We should not simply remain in our own secure world, that of the ninety-nine sheep who never strayed from the fold, but we should go out, with Christ, in search of the one lost sheep, however far it may have wandered. Holy Week is not so much a time of sorrow, but rather a time to enter into Christ's way of thinking and acting. It is a time of grace given us by the Lord so that we can move beyond a dull or mechanical way of living our faith, and instead open the doors of our hearts, our lives, our parishes, our movements

or associations, going out in search of others so as to bring them the light and the joy of our faith in Christ.

Santo Padre:

Saluto cordialmente i pellegrini di lingua inglese, in modo particolare il gran numero di studenti universitari che partecipano al Congresso internazionale a Roma. Porgo i miei più sentiti auguri ai pellegrini venuti dall'Inghilterra, dall'Irlanda, dalle Filippine e dagli Stati Uniti di America! Vi invito tutti a vivere bene questa Settimana Santa sulle orme di Gesù, e a portare un raggio del suo amore a quanti incontrate. Buona Pasqua!

Speaker:

Heartfelt greetings to the English-speaking pilgrims, especially the large group of university students taking part in the international UNIV Congress here in Rome. I extend a warm welcome to the pilgrims from England, Ireland, the Philippines and the United States of America. I invite all of you to enter fully into the spirit of Holy Week, following in the footsteps of Jesus and bringing the light of his love to everyone you meet. Happy Easter!

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