



Dearest guests,

I am delighted to welcome you on your arrival in the land of our beloved Archdiocese, which stretches from the valley of the river Aso up to the river Potenza, from the emerald-green Adriatic to the bright blue skies of the Sibillini mountains.

A multitude of personalities emerge from the presence of our 123 parish communities distributed over 58 municipalities which belong to the three provinces of Ascoli Piceno, Macerata and Fermo. The dynamism of the coast, the hardworking approach on the hills, the tradition of the mountains are just some of the distinguishing traits of these personalities, which I urge you to discover during your stay.

The pursuit can be assisted by the presence of a vast quantity of historic and cultural testimonies which range from architectural and artistic heritage to the popular and traditional local events.

I hope the multitude of opportunities offered during this period will give you the chance to establish and cultivate significant relationships, where shared experiences will enrich your souls with those values which satisfy the desire for happiness lodged in all our hearts. For this reason, I urge you to benefit from the opportunity provided by this period of rest to pay attention to what is most precious to us.

Holiday time is especially suitable for reinforcing relationships and sharing more intensely with our dear ones.

I hope it will also be an occasion to stop and listen to yourselves and to the questions which inevitably ensue.

At a time such as this, where uncertainty and disorientation appear to dominate our lives, it is increasingly necessary to focus our existence on clear and stable points of reference. In order to distinguish them, among the multitude of offers, it appears to be necessary to cultivate and develop the special sensitivity of our spirit. In this, our land and our traditions offer an extensive choice of places which incarnate a strong spirituality, which is a vital dimension for us, from monasteries to sanctuaries and the multiple ecclesial experiences of our communities.

My desire and my wish for you is therefore to meet, to converse and to share your lives, so that this may give rise, illuminated by the Holy Spirit, to a conscience capable of bringing new hope and vitality to your everyday actions and, from this, to the entire society.

Let us put our trust in Mary, Mother of Jesus Christ our Father, who Ascended into Heaven and the Patron of our Archdiocese, who with exemplary haste was able to guard the essential in her heart.

With her intercession, let the blessing of God, our compassionate and merciful Father, be with you and your families.

+ Luigi Conti

*+ Luigi Conti
Metropolitan Archbishop of Fermo*

Fermo, 11th May 2010