The original documents are located in Box 10, folder “6/3/75 - Talking Points: Ceremony at Oratorio de San Pietro” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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I am pleased to be here at the Oratorio, sponsored by the American Knights of Columbus and to commend this fine institution for its service today and throughout the fifty years of its history as a link between America and Italy.
I commend the Oratorio for spreading American ideals of sportsmanship, parent participation, and community spirit.

On my first visit to Italy as President, I am proud to greet the personnel of the American Embassy and the many representatives of the American community in Rome.

Every American can be an ambassador of goodwill in broadening the excellent relations we have traditionally enjoyed with Italy, just as Ambassador Volpe performs his daily duties.

I thank the Ambassador and all the Embassy staff for their hard work on this brief but important visit — which I hope will prove a milestone in American-Italian relations.
I am particularly proud of American-sponsored institutions in Italy and their students, both American and Italian, both secular and religious.

Among the students here today are some from Grand Valley State College, founded near my home town, Grand Rapids, Michigan.

They are attending the American University in Rome under an exchange program.

(Bill Seidman is chairman of the board of Grand Valley State College.)

I am naturally delighted to find that Michigan's institutions have their own exchange program in Rome.
I AM GLAD TO GREET THE STUDENTS OF THE NORTH AMERICAN COLLEGE,
A GRADUATE INSTITUTION FOR AMERICAN CATHOLIC CLERGY STUDYING FOR THE
PRIESTHOOD.

ALSO, I GREET THE DELEGATION REPRESENTING THE MANY AMERICAN STUDENTS
STUDYING MEDICINE AND THE MANY OTHER STUDENTS AND INSTITUTIONS IN THIS
COUNTRY WHICH IS A HISTORIC CENTER OF LEARNING.

I THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING TODAY, AND GIVING ENCOURAGEMENT
TO THE EFFORTS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS TO WORK TOWARDS PEACE AND A BETTER
WORLD FOR ALL HUMANITY.

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