

**The original documents are located in Box 37, “8/8/76 - Remarks to the 41st International Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia, PA” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Gerald Ford donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

**Congress of the United States**

Office of the Minority Leader

**House of Representatives**

Washington, D.C. 20515

---

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

*Gerald R. Ford*  
M.C.

[These cards were used]

~~THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.~~

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS TO THE  
41st INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS  
PHILADELPHIA

AUGUST 8, 1976

1.

-- YOUR EMINENCE CARDINAL KNOX, PAPAL LEGATE FOR HIS

HOLINESS, POPE PAUL

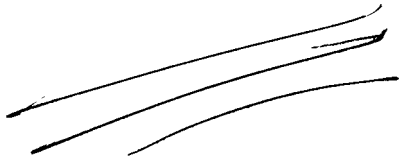
-- YOUR ENIMENCE CARDINAL KROL --

-- DISTINGUISHED CLERGY FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.

-- DEAR FRIENDS--

2.

I AM DEEPLY HONORED BY YOUR INVITATION TO BE WITH YOU  
FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THIS 41st INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC  
CONGRESS, AND TO REITERATE, ON BEHALF OF ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, OUR MOST HEARTFELT WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS  
FROM MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.



3.

IT IS AN INSPIRING DEMONSTRATION OF ALL THE WORLD'S HUNGER  
FOR PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE CONGRESSES ARE ABLE TO  
UNITE CITIZENS OF MORE THAN 100 NATIONS IN COMMON PURPOSE  
AND COMMON PRAYER.

4.

IT IS FITTING THAT YOU GATHER HERE IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY  
LOVE, WHERE 200 YEARS AGO MY COUNTRY DECLARED ITS NATIONAL  
INDEPENDENCE "WITH A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE  
PROVIDENCE."

5.

THAT RELIANCE HAS NEVER FAILED US, AND HAS BEEN REINFORCED  
BY THE EQUALLY FIRM DEVOTION OF AMERICANS TO FREEDOM OF WORSHIP  
AND FREEDOM OF CONSCIENCE FOR ALL WHO HAVE COME TO US THROUGH  
THE CENTURIES.

6.

THESE FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS ARE NOT ONLY WRITTEN INTO  
OUR CONSTITUTION AND OUR LAWS, BUT THEY ARE WRITTEN IN OUR  
HEARTS AS WELL.

7.

ON THIS OCCASION WE CELEBRATE THE CHURCH'S CONTRIBUTION  
TO BUILDING A MORE PEACEFUL WORLD. WE SALUTE YOU FOR GIVING  
DEPTH AND DIRECTION TO THE WORLD COMMUNITY IN EVERY AGE.

8.

FOR MILLIONS OF MEN AND WOMEN, THE CHURCH HAS BEEN THE  
HOSPITAL FOR THE SOUL, THE SCHOOLROOM FOR THE MIND, AND THE SAFE  
DEPOSITORY FOR MORAL IDEALS. IT HAS GIVEN UNITY AND PURPOSE  
TO THE AFFAIRS OF MAN. IT HAS BEEN A VITAL INSTITUTION FOR  
PROTECTING AND PROCLAIMING THE ULTIMATE VALUES OF LIFE ITSELF.

9.

WE ARE RIGHTLY CONCERNED TODAY ABOUT THE RISING TIDE OF  
SECULARISM ACROSS THE WORLD. I SHARE YOUR DEEP APPREHENSION  
ABOUT THE INCREASED IRREVERENCE FOR LIFE.

10.

THE SUPREME VALUE OF EVERY PERSON TO WHOM LIFE IS GIVEN BY

GOD IS A BELIEF THAT COMES TO US FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES --- ONE

CONFIRMED BY ALL THE GREAT LEADERS OF THE CHURCH.

11.

OUR COMMITMENT TO THE UNIQUE ROLE OF THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

IS ALSO BASIC TO OUR FAITH.

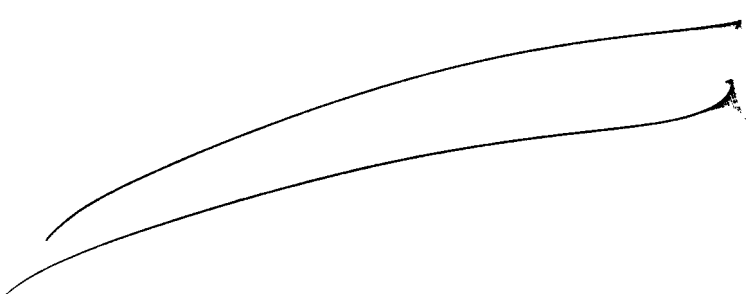


12.

THERE ARE NO ADEQUATE SUBSTITUTES FOR FATHER, MOTHER, AND  
CHILDREN BOUND TOGETHER IN A LOVING COMMITMENT TO NURTURE AND  
PROTECT. NO GOVERNMENT, NO MATTER HOW WELL INTENTIONED, CAN  
EVER TAKE THE PLACE OF THE FAMILY IN THE SCHEME OF THINGS.

13.

THE FAMILY CIRCLE SUGGESTS A ONENESS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE  
CHURCH FAMILY AND THAT WHICH WE STRIVE TO ACHIEVE IN THE HUMAN  
FAMILY.



14.

I REMEMBER A POEM THAT MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME AS A BOY, BY THE  
GREAT AMERICAN POET EDWIN MARKHAM, WHICH BEAUTIFULLY EXPRESSES  
THE DETERMINATION THAT WE MUST MOVE BEYOND TOLERANCE TO LOVE.

15.

IT GOES LIKE THIS:

"HE DREW A CIRCLE THAT SHUT ME OUT -

HERETIC, REBEL, A THING TO FLOUT.

BUT LOVE AND I HAD THE WIT TO WIN:

WE DREW A CIRCLE THAT TOOK HIM IN."

16.

I AM MOVED THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME WITHIN THIS GREAT CIRCLE  
TODAY AND BY THE SPIRIT OF LOVE AND SERVICE THAT ANIMATES IT.

I HOPE THAT WE ALL, WHATEVER OUR COUNTRY OR CREED, WILL CONTINUE  
TO DRAW LARGER AND LARGER CIRCLES UNTIL THAT DAY, IN HIS GOOD TIME  
WHEN ALL GOD'S PEOPLE ARE ONE.

17.

AS WE WORK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD WHERE OUR BROTHERS  
AND SISTERS ARE FREE FROM HUNGER AND FEAR, LET US KEEP OUR HEARTS  
FREE FROM PRIDE AND HATE, IN THE SPIRIT OF THIS OLD FAMILIAR

PRAYER OF THE GOOD ST. FRANCIS:

LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF THY PEACE,

WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE,

WHERE THERE IS INJURY, PARDON,

WHERE THERE IS DOUBT, FAITH,

WHERE THERE IS DESPAIR, HOPE,

WHERE THERE IS DARKNESS, LIGHT,

WHERE THERE IS SADNESS, JOY.

GOD BLESS AND MAY YOU HAVE A SAFE JOURNEY TO YOUR

HOMES.

END OF TEXT

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

THESE CARDS WERE NOT USED

REMARKS TO  
41ST INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS

SUNDAY - AUGUST 8, 1976

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

YOUR EMINENCE CARDINAL KNOX, YOUR EMINENCE CARDINAL KROL,

REVEREND CLERGY, AND DEAR FRIENDS OF EVERY NATION:

I AM DEEPLY HONORED BY YOUR INVITATION TO BE WITH YOU FOR THE  
CONCLUSION OF THIS 41ST INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS AND TO  
REPEAT, ON BEHALF OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, OUR HEARTFELT WELCOME TO  
OUR GUESTS FROM MANY OTHER COUNTRIES.

IT IS AN INSPIRING DEMONSTRATION OF THE WORLD'S HUNGER FOR PEACE  
AND UNDERSTANDING THAT THESE EUCHARISTIC CONGRESSES CAN UNITE  
THE CITIZENS OF MORE THAN 100 NATIONS IN COMMON PURPOSE AND COMMON  
PRAYER.

5.

WE ARE RIGHTLY CONCERNED TODAY ABOUT THE RISING TIDE OF  
SECULARISM ACROSS THE WORLD. I SHARE YOUR DEEP APPREHENSION  
ABOUT THE INCREASED IRREVERENCE FOR LIFE.

YET THE AMERICAN TRADITION OF ABSOLUTE SEPARATION OF  
CHURCH AND STATE HAS NEVER MEANT THE SEPARATION OF PRIVATE  
AND PUBLIC MORALITY, OR THE SEPARATION OF THOSE WHO MINISTER  
TO THE SPIRITUAL AND THE MATERIAL HUNGERS OF THE HUMAN  
FAMILY.

I HAVE FOLLOWED WITH INTEREST THE NEWS OF THIS  
CONGRESS' TEMPORAL CONCERNS AND THE PROGRESS MADE HERE  
TOWARDS THE UNITY OF ALL CHRISTIANS IN THE MEANING OF  
THEIR FORMS OF WORSHIP.



10.

THE GREAT DESIRE OF JESUS " THAT ALL MAY BE ONE" WAS EXPRESSED  
IN THE FIRST EUCHARIST. AS YOU MEET HERE FOR THIS EUCHARISTIC  
CONGRESS, YOU GIVE DRAMATIC EXPRESSION TO OUR LONGING FOR A WORLD  
IN WHICH THE SPIRIT OF UNITY SHALL COME TO PASS.

11.

AS AN AMERICAN, I AM PROUD THAT YOU ARE GATHERED THIS YEAR  
IN THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE.

12.

ENSHRINED HERE IS THE FAMOUS LIBERTY BELL. IT IS THE RINGING EMBODIMENT OF A VERSE FROM THE HOLY BIBLE - A VERSE INSCRIBED ON THE LIP OF THE BELL:

"PROCLAIM LIBERTY . . . . THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND . . . .  
UNTO ALL THE INHABITANTS THEREOF."

13.

AMERICA WAS A FIRST BORN CHILD OF LIBERTY. WE HAVE TRIED TO BE GOD'S "LIBERTY BELL" AMONG ALL NATIONS, PROCLAIMING BY OUR EXISTENCE, BY OUR STRIVING FOR WHAT IS RIGHT AND GOOD, AND EVEN BY OUR LAPSES AND FAILURES, THAT THE TRUE CONDITION OF ALL MANKIND SHOULD BE LIBERTY UNDER GOD.

14.

HERE IN AMERICA, AS OUR FOREFATHERS DECLARED 200 YEARS AGO,  
WE SEEK TO PLACE "A FIRM RELIANCE ON THE PROTECTION OF DIVINE  
PROVIDENCE."

15.

ON THIS CLOSING DAY OF THE 41ST EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, I INVITE  
YOU TO UTTER IN YOUR HEART A PRAYER FOR GOD'S CONTINUED GUIDANCE  
AND PROTECTION FOR ALL THE WORLD -- A PRAYER THAT, WHEN ANSWERED,  
WILL BLESS NOT ONLY US BUT PEOPLE EVERYWHERE.  
THANK YOU.

END OF TEXT