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.

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[These cards were used]
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 EMINENCE 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 INTENTIIONED, 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.
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.

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:
18.

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,

19.

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
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 . . . .
UNTIL 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 LAPSSES 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