Pope: Safeguard and Support the Family

Cautions Hungary on Risks of Newfound Freedom

VATICAN CITY, FEB. 2, 2009 (Zenit)
Benedict XVI encouraged Hungary to reaffirm its Christian values in this new time of freedom, and thereby to assist Europe and the worldwide community.

The Pope affirmed this today in an audience with the new ambassador of Hungary to the Holy See, Janos Balassa.

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Video Link (Deutsch)

He stated that "the forces that govern economic and political affairs in the modern world need to be properly directed," to be "built upon an ethical foundation, giving priority always to the dignity and the rights of the human person and the common good of humanity."

The Holy Father continued: "In view of its strong Christian heritage, stretching back over 1,000 years, Hungary is well placed to assist in the promotion of these humane ideals within the European community and the wider world community, and it is my hope that our diplomatic relations will serve to support this vital dimension of your country's contribution to international affairs."

The Holy Father underlined the experience of "newly gained freedom" which sometimes brings the risk that "those same Christian and human values, so deeply rooted in the history and culture of individual peoples, and indeed of the whole continent of Europe, can be supplanted by others, based on unsound visions of man and his dignity and harmful to the development of a truly flourishing society."

