

22 September 2008

His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI
Vatican City

Most Holy Father:

Gathered in Plenary Assembly at Cornwall, Ontario, 22-26 September 2008, the Bishops of Canada send you their fraternal greetings and best wishes.

The agenda of our Plenary Assembly includes presentations by our delegates to the Synod of Bishops next month on *Verbum Dei in vita et in missione Ecclesiae*. As well, in celebration of the Pauline Jubilee Year, there will be reflections on Saint Paul the Apostle by two biblical scholars. We will also discuss follow-up to the 49th International Eucharistic Congress which was celebrated in Quebec City this past June, in addition to our continuing to focus on the restructuring of our Episcopal Conference.

Thank you, Holy Father, for the Pauline Year, which is already assisting us in helping our faithful to rediscover the pertinence and importance of the writings of Paul. We also thank you for your video message of 21 June 2008 to the young participants gathered for the International Eucharistic Congress, in which you reminded them, and indeed all our Church, of the transformation and mission that Christ offers the members of his Body in the Eucharist, in order to be sent into the world as “messengers of his peace and witnesses of his message of love”.

In conveying to you this expression of our collaboration with and support for you as the Successor of Peter, we also assure you that in “spirit and truth” (John 4.23) we will be joining you and all our brother Bishops assembled in Synod next month. May this be a key moment for us in our role as pastors for renewing and deepening a vital appreciation for the Word of God in all of ecclesial, personal and social life.

Respectfully and fraternally in Our Lord,

+ V. James Weisgerber
Archbishop of Winnipeg
President
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops