

To Our Venerable Brother

FRANCIS OF THE HOLY ROMAN CHURCH CARDINAL ARINZE

Prefect Emeritus of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments

“I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh’ (Jn 6:5 1). Jesus thus shows that he is the bread of life which the eternal Father gives to mankind” (*Sacramentum caritatis*, 7).

We have learned that all the sacred Prelates of Asia, in order that the faithful may understand in a deeper way and love this divine Sacrament, have wisely chosen to meditate on the theme “Living the Eucharist in Asia”, in the next Plenary Assembly of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences, and that they will also take inspiration from our Postsynodal Apostolic Exhortation, *Sacramentum Caritatis*.

In order, therefore, that such a big event be celebrated with the greatest solemnity and that it may bring very abundant fruit to so many peoples and cultures of the whole Continent, the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences has asked us to send an eminent Prelate to represent us and to express our mind. We thought therefore of you, our Venerable Brother, because we consider you fit to carry out this mission, since earlier we already know your active solicitude for the good of souls, and especially for the proper celebration of divine worship in the whole Church.

Therefore, moved with great trust and love, we name you **OUR SPECIAL ENVOY** to the IX Plenary Assembly of the Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conferences to be celebrated from 11 to 16 August this year in Manila in the Philippines. You will take care to transmit our teaching and desires diligently to that assembly. Our particular mind is that all Shepherds teach their Christian faithful to take part in the Eucharistic Celebration especially on Sundays, to be purified in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and to be fed there with the word of God and at the sacred banquet. We exhort them to esteem their priests greatly, because these are elected by the Lord and constituted ministers of the Eucharist. They should support the spiritual ministry of the priests with fervent prayers and oblations and promote new vocations to this sublime ministry, and especially now celebrate with the whole Church the Year for Priests.

We shall support your important mission with our prayers, while we even now wholeheartedly commend you, Our Venerable Brother, all our Brothers in the Episcopate there gathered, and all followers of Christ the Saviour in all Asia to the most loving protection of the Mother of God, the Virgin Mary assumed into heaven and also to all the Saints who have promoted the work of evangelization in this continent. Finally, we lovingly impart to you Our Apostolic Blessing, to be communicated to all to whom you are now sent.

From the Vatican Building, on the XXIV of the month of June, in the year MMIX, the fifth of Our Pontificate

BENEDICTUS PP XVI