

VISIT OF THE HOLY FATHER TO THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY

**ADDRESS OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS
VICE GRAND CHANCELLOR OF THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN
UNIVERSITY**

The V. Rev. Fr. Peter-Hans Kolvenbach, S.J.

Friday, Nov. 3, 2006

Holy Father:

As Vice Grand Chancellor of this Pontifical University and as the Superior General of the Society of Jesus to which this work was entrusted, I am honored to bring to your attention the gifts which on this occasion we place in your hands:

I offer you in homage this medallion dedicated to St. Robert Bellarmine, Patron of the University, struck in the year 2001 on the occasion of the 450th anniversary of the founding of the Roman College. It was in fact the 23 of February of the year 1551 when sixty students and fifteen teachers initiated the education process which, having taken the name “Roman College,” was to lay the foundation of a long history.

Rev. Fr. Josep Benitez will offer you the last volume of the publication *Archivum Historiae Pontificiae*, which includes the dedication made to you “*expleto anno primo tui Pontificatus* (at the completion of the first year of your Pontificate)”. This publication, founded in 1963, was born from the idea that came to maturity in 1946 of documenting for researchers of the whole world the history of the Papacy, integrating into it a specialized bibliography which with its wealth of information defines the specific character of this publication, a vivid expression of our will to serve the Church with our dedication to study.

Rev. Fr. Natalino Spaccapelo will offer you the volume “*Il teologo e la storia: Lonergan’s Centenary (1904-2004)* (“*The Theologian and History: Lonergan’s Centenary (1904–2004)*),” edited by Fr. Paul Gilbert and Fr. Spaccapelo, which gathers together the results of the two initiatives with which the Pontifical Gregorian University in 2004 wished to honor Fr. Bernard Lonergan on the occasion of the centenary of his birth.

This volume contains six articles from the fourth number of the year 2004 of the journal *Gregorianum* and fourteen other contributions presented at the Convention “Lonergan’s Centenary, 1904–2004” which was held at this university.

Rev. Fr. Paul Gilbert will offer you the publication “*Universitas nostra Gregoriana. La Pontificia Università Gregoriana ieri ed oggi (Our Gregorian University. The Pontifical Gregorian University yesterday and today)*” edited by Fr. Gilbert which includes texts and contributions that illustrate the fundamental orientation of the Gregorian University and its Ignatian soul running through its history, documenting its continuously renewed attention to the life of the Church and the world in which the Gospel is proclaimed, and above all expressing the specific character of that spirit which animates the Gregorian today.

With these gifts, Holy Father, we wish to share with you a sign of the dedication of our academic-scientific mission in full consciousness of the importance of the task to which we have been and continue to be called in the service of the universal Church.