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The Catholic Democrats, a National Advocacy Group, Welcomes His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI

Urges President Bush and People of Good Will to Heed Pope's Message of Hope to Bridge Divisions in the Public Square

Boston, MA - The Catholic Democrats join with the chorus of voices welcoming Pope Benedict XVI to America. "Christ our Hope" is the theme of his pastoral visit to America's Catholics, and we celebrate this opportunity to explore again the full breadth of Catholic Social Teaching as a guiding light for our society: reaching out to foreigners, rather than villainizing them; lending a hand to the poor, rather than sermonizing about personal ambition; extending healing to the sick, rather than leaving them to fend for themselves; blessing the peacemaker, rather than those who send others into battle; recognizing Democratic leadership in efforts to decrease the loss of those not yet born; and celebrating our faith tradition and tolerance to bridge the divide we face in a country that is deeply divided.

Said Catholic Democrats President Patrick Whelan, "Pope Benedict XVI asks us this week to re-dedicate ourselves to the wellbeing of others, as a means of bringing us closer to God. Thus we in America are called to strive not simply for ourselves, but for a Hope that is truly ours."

About Catholic Democrats

Catholic Democrats is an association of state based groups offering a Catholic voice within the Democratic Party, and standing up for Catholic office holders who are attacked because of their faith. The Catholic Democrats are advancing the rich tradition of Catholic Social Teaching in the public square for the common good. For more information about Catholic Democrats please go to www.catholicdemocrats.org.

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