



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FIRST SECTION – GENERAL AFFAIRS

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Reverend Father,

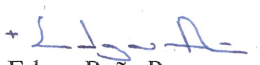
His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has asked me to convey heartfelt greetings to those taking part in the Symposium on the contemporary relevance of Saint John Henry Newman, being held at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He likewise sends the assurance of his prayerful closeness to all associated with the International Centre of Newman Friends as it celebrates its fiftieth anniversary.

As you know well, these events are taking place at a moment of great importance for the worldwide Church, not least, in the context of the Jubilee of the World of Education, the solemn declaration, on the Solemnity of All Saints, of Saint John Henry Newman as a Doctor of the Church and as co-Patron of the Church's educational mission.

It can certainly be said that Newman has never been more relevant, not merely on account of this new ecclesial recognition of his significance, but for the breadth and depth of his learned thought, which continues to be a source of nourishment, and an intellectual and spiritual stimulus for many students and scholars. At the same time, nor can we forget Newman's ecumenical significance, and his zeal for personal "heart to heart" dialogue, reflected in his motto, *Cor ad cor loquitur*, which alone would mark him out as a Saint, indeed a Doctor for our times. His saintly array of insights, then, in areas ranging from theology and philosophy, to education, literature and spirituality, not to mention his priestly witness of pastoral devotion, will surely continue to draw many men and women to the "Kindly Light" who is the eternal source of all joy and peace. Moreover, at a time when our world is marked all too often by "shadows and images," his teaching and example continue to shine a crucial light on how we as Christians can respond to today's challenges.

His Holiness prays, therefore, that the Symposium will bear much fruit not only in making Newman's thought more widely known, but in encouraging people to imitate his holiness of life so that the world may be "led out of shadows and images into the fullness of [God's] truth" (*Collect of the Feast of Saint John Henry Newman*). With these sentiments, the Holy Father invokes upon all the participants an abundance of Almighty God's blessings.

Yours sincerely in Christ,


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Substitute

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