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The Memorial of Saint Francis of Assisi

My Dear Young People,

Peace be with you! Whether you are here in Washington, DC at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception or are joining us through the Eternal Word Television Network, thank you for participating in this the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Worldwide Children's Eucharistic Holy Hour, taking place on the beautiful feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. As the personal and official representative of His Holiness Pope Francis in the United States of America, I bring to you the Holy Father's warm greetings, his fatherly affection and the assurances that he is spiritually united with you, as today he makes a pastoral visit to Assisi.

Together you are praying before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. At this very special moment, may the words of our Holy Father guide and encourage you: **"...in the Eucharist the Lord makes us walk on his road, that of service, of sharing, of giving; and if it is shared, that little we have, that little we are, becomes riches, for the power of God – which is the power of love – comes down into our poverty to transform it."** (Homily, Solemnity of Corpus Christi, May 30, 2013)

To serve, to share, to give, to love Jesus and your brothers and sisters – this is what will make your lives rich and contribute toward the peace that all people seek.

Commending each of you to the protection and intercession of our Blessed Mother, His Holiness Pope Francis imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of joy and strength in the Lord..

With prayerful best wishes, I am,

Your Friend,

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò  
Apostolic Nuncio