



3339 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20008-3687

APOSTOLIC NUNCIATURE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

No. 3557

November 16, 2006

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Through the kindness of Father Ken Bartsch, OFMConv, Director of **Franciscan Retreats**, I recently learned with pleasure that the 49th Franciscan International Award will be presented to the Knights of Columbus at a special ceremony in Eagan, Minnesota on May 10, 2007.

On this wonderful occasion, I convey to you as Supreme Knight, to Mr. Paul Devin, Supreme Advocate, and to all the Knights my heartfelt congratulations, gladly uniting myself spiritually with the entire Conventual Franciscan Order as they pay fitting tribute to your Venerable Fraternity.

In fidelity to the prophetic vision of your Founder, Father Michael McGivney, the Knights of Columbus have for more than a century demonstrated an unswerving commitment to the Successor of Peter, to the Catholic Church's mission of evangelization, to the nation, to the family and to the sanctity of human life itself. They have drawn young people to Jesus Christ, helping them to understand that the true meaning and value of life is found in the generous gift of self to God and to others.

Commending the Knights of Columbus and their loved ones to the protection of Mary Immaculate and the prayerful intercession of Saint Francis of Assisi, I remain, with cordial regards,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Pietro Sambi
Apostolic Nuncio

MR. CARL A. ANDERSON
SUPREME KNIGHT
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
49TH FRANCISCAN INTERNATIONAL AWARD
MAY 10, 2007