



The Holy See

ADDRESS OF POPE FRANCIS

TO THE AGESCI SCOUTS *Sunday, 10 August 2014*

"I cordially greet you all. And I'm happy for this gathering. I'm sorry that I was not able to come, but I accompany you from here, with great affection. I hope that these roads of courage, which go straight toward the future, may be a great asset for you. Courage! This is a virtue and an attribute of young people. The world needs courageous, not fearful young people. It needs young people on the move, not standing still: there is no progress if the young stand still! Young people who are always motivated, not young people who retire! It's sad! It's sad to see a retired young person. No, a young person should go forward on this road of courage. Go forward! This will be your victory; your job is to help change this world, to make it so much better. I know that you have reflected on the Apocalypse, thinking of the New City. This is your task: to build a new city. Always onward with a new city: with the truth, with goodness, with the beauty that the Lord has given us.

Dear young people, dear boys and girls, I greet you here and I wish you all the best. Do not be afraid, do not let your hope be stolen. Life is yours! It's yours to make flourish, to bear fruit for everyone. Humanity is watching us and is also watching you on this road of courage. And remember: retirement is at age 65! A young person must never retire, never! You must go forward with courage.

I pray for you and I ask the Lord to give you His blessing.

I bless you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. And please, I ask you to pray for me.