



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE
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Sommario:

◆ **MESSAGGIO DEL SANTO PADRE IN OCCASIONE DEL XXV ANNIVERSARIO DELL'INCONTRO INTERRELIGIOSO DI PREGHIERA DI HIEIZAN (GIAPPONE)**

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Pubblichiamo il testo del Messaggio che il Santo Padre Benedetto XVI ha inviato al Sacerdote supremo del tempio buddista del Monte Hiei, in occasione del 25° anniversario dell'Incontro interreligioso di preghiera per la pace nel mondo che si tenne ad Hieizan, sul Monte Hiei, nei pressi di Kyoto.

Il Messaggio del Papa è stato letto oggi da S.E. Mons. Pier Luigi Celata, già Segretario del Pontificio Consiglio per il Dialogo Interreligioso, che si trova in questi giorni in visita in Giappone:

● **MESSAGGIO DEL SANTO PADRE**

The Venerable Kojun HANDA
256th TendaiZasu
Supreme Priest of the Tendai Buddhist Denomination

I am pleased to greet you and the religious leaders gathered for the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Religious Summit on Mount Hiei, in the spirit of the 1986 historic meeting in Assisi promoted by my predecessor Blessed John Paul II. The commitment to the cause of peace by religious leaders is of the greatest importance and I am happy to learn that, thanks to your efforts, the Summit on Mount Hiei has become a major annual event that contributes effectively to dialogue between people of different beliefs.

I am confident that the work of the Summit and the Symposium studying the response of religious leaders to

natural disasters will lead to greater solidarity and mutual help. According to the Christian perspective, the love given to those who suffer is a reflection of the divine charity of God who so loved the world that he sent his only Son Jesus Christ. In this sense, my mind turns to the earthquake and tsunami in north-east Japan last year and the harrowing consequences for the whole nation. It was heartening to learn of the effective role of religious leaders in offering hope and support, as well as counsel and solace, to all those suffering. The tragic event also shows how people of different beliefs can cooperate with one another for the good of the human person.

With these sentiments, and as a pledge of goodwill and friendship, upon all gathered I invoke an abundance of divine blessings.

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI

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