

CHRIST THE SAVIOUR, YESTERDAY, TODAY AND FOREVER - IN DIALOGUE
WITH GOD, THE CHURCH, THE WORLD AND CULTURE.

WELCOME SPEECH : JOYCE PULLICINO - PRESIDENT GENERAL
MALTA CATHOLIC ACTION.

I would like to borrow the wonderful expression the Irish use to give a very special welcome because it expresses best my feelings at this moment : "A hundred thousand welcomes" to you all my brothers and sisters from Austria, Hungary, Italy, Rumania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, Poland and Malta. We are so sorry that our friends from Albania are unable to join us. Our heart is with them as we watch daily on T.V. the happenings in this European country. We will pray specially for them throughout this seminar.

Concurrently with this seminar, the Malta Catholic Action Youth Section is organising a European Ecumenical Conference for the World Council of Churches. Participants came from Norway, Hungary, Holland, Ireland, Lithuania, Estonia, Poland, Czech Republic and Rumania. We ask you to pray for them every time we meet to pray.

Once when I was much younger, I was staying in a Youth Hostel in Brussels. The young American girl who occupied the bunk bed on top of me wanted to know all about where I came from. When I told her the size of Malta, she said : "Gosh, aren't you afraid the plane will land in the sea?". Well, I hope that the sight of our Churches with the little houses huddled around them distracted your mind from this possibility as you were landing.

Ninette the national vice-president who so kindly organised your stay in Malta, had the wonderful idea of organising Mass daily in different parts of the Island so that you will see as much of it as possible during your short stay. I must thank her for the very hard work she put in, to ensure your pleasant stay in Malta. The Tourist Office has very kindly given us very special packs of information about Malta, in the hope of enticing you and your friends back for a holiday.

I would like to congratulate each and everyone of the organisers, in particular for choosing such an important theme for our consideration.

The Church, Indeed Christ, relies on us to fertilise our working and living environment with the wisdom of His teachings. This we do by searching individually and together for His guidance. This is what we shall be doing during this seminar.

I invite you : to have faith in God's presence amongst us during this big event ; to have hope that the Christian message is still indeed very good news today and that it will be accepted and it will bring peace and prosperity to mankind and to open your heart with love for each other and for the whole of humanity.
