



The Holy See

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI
TO CARDINAL FRANCIS ARINZE
ON THE OCCASION OF THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY
OF HIS EPISCOPAL ORDINATION**

Monday, 31 October 2005

Your Eminence,

I am pleased to receive you, together with your friends from the Nigerian community in Rome, and other visitors from your country, who have come to join you in the celebration of the Fortieth Anniversary of your Episcopal Ordination. I willingly express to you my sincere congratulations and personal good wishes for the occasion.

Yesterday in the Church of Santa Maria in Transpontina, you celebrated a Solemn Mass in thanksgiving to Almighty God for the gift of Forty years of Episcopal Ministry. Today I am happy to join my prayers to your intentions, and I ask the Lord to be your guide and strength as you continue to serve the Church in love and zeal. Invoking upon Your Eminence, through the intercession of Mary the Mother of God, the divine gifts of joy and peace, I cordially impart to you and to all who share in this joyful celebration, my Apostolic Blessing.

© Copyright 2005 - Libreria Editrice Vaticana