



Vatican City, May 27, 2009

To the Most Reverend Father Thomas Handgrättinger
Abbot General of the Order of Canons Regular of Prémontré
Viale Giotto 27
00153 Roma

On the occasion of the 875th anniversary of St. Norbert of Xanten's heavenly birthday, the Supreme Pontiff sends his greetings and best wishes. While the whole Order gathers to give thanks to the Lord for the many gifts He has bestowed through the extraordinary evangelical witness and exemplary zeal of your Holy Founder, the Holy Father hopes that this happy occasion will inspire a renewed fidelity to the model of the first Christian community gathered around the Eucharist and persevering in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus. May each monastery of the Order experience an increase in faithful dedication to the Church, austerity of life, missionary zeal, and the spirit of hospitality so that each monastery will become even more a house of prayer and a school of faith.

With these wishes and with paternal benevolence, and invoking the heavenly intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the Saints and Blesseds of your religious family, His Holiness bestows upon you, your confreres and sisters, and indeed upon all who take part in the celebration of this special jubilee year, his special apostolic blessing.

+ Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone
Secretary of State for His Holiness