

**Message of Pope St. John Paul II  
for the Opening of the International Theological Institute**

Gaming, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 1997  
Feast of St. Thomas Aquinas  
English Translation

To His Excellency  
Archbishop Donato Squicciarini  
Apostolic Nuncio in Austria

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the official opening of the International Theological Institute for Marriage and the Family in Gaming, the Holy Father conveys to the Chancellor, the teachers, students and all present who are connected with this place of learning his cordial congratulations and blessings.

It is with great interest and satisfaction that the Holy Father has been following the birth of the Institute in Gaming. What is brought today to one phase of conclusion by this official opening, is a fruit of the Second Vatican Council, which teaches in the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the World Today, “Our era needs such wisdom more than bygone ages if the discoveries made by human beings are to be further humanized. For the future of the world stands in peril unless wiser persons are forthcoming.” (15)

The Institute has dedicated itself in several respects to this vision of wisdom as a whole which is, in the end, a gift granted by God. For one thing, it brings together young people of diverse cultures, who want to dedicate themselves to the search for wisdom, in order to help build a better world. In addition, the curriculum is shaped by inquiry into the rich treasury of history, in order that the polyphony of the Church’s Tradition may help to address the manifold complex problems that arise today and show paths into a meaningful future. Finally, it is a witness to foresight and wisdom that the International Theological Institute in Gaming places marriage and the family at the center of its interest. For, “The future of humanity passes by way of the family.” (*Familiaris Consortio*, 86)

May today’s festive occasion, on which the initiators of this place of learning can reap the first fruit of the construction and official opening of the Institute, be at the same time the first day of the sowing of many seeds of wisdom that take root in the heads and hearts of the students, in order to bear rich fruit in the testimony of their lives. To this end the Holy Father cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With my personal best wishes  
Giovanni Battista Re  
Substitute of the Secretariate of State