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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

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March 31, 2017

Dear Father Pavlik,

I have been asked to forward to you the following message from the Secretariat of State as the Church in the United States prepares to celebrate "Religious Brothers Day":

As the Church in the United States prepares to celebrate the first annual "Religious Brothers Day", His Holiness Pope Francis sends cordial greetings to America's communities of brothers, together with his prayerful good wishes for the spiritual fruitfulness of their varied apostolates. Conscious of the immense contribution made by generations of brothers to the growth of the Church in the United States through their schools, hospitals and other forms of religious and social outreach, the Holy Father trusts that this day of recognition will confirm them in their distinctive witness of consecrated life and their generous service to God's Kingdom. He likewise expresses his hope that their prophetic testimony to evangelical fraternity and ecclesial communion will act as a leaven for the renewal of the Church in America and the building up of an ever more just society, respectful of the dignity and aspirations of all God's children. Commending America's religious brothers to the paternal intercession of Saint Joseph the Worker, His Holiness affectionately imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of abiding joy and peace in the Lord.

*Cardinal Pietro Parolin
Secretary of State*

With cordial regards and assuring you of my prayers, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Christophe Pierre
Apostolic Nuncio

Rev. John Pavlik, OFM Cap.
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