



His holiness Pope Benedict XVI gives his apostolic blessing for the Jubilee year celebrations

Dear Superiors General, Priests, Brothers and Sisters of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel,

I would like to greet all your communities with the calling to ‘Who is like God’, which is the name of your patron saint – St Michael the Archangel. Your spirituality refers to his name expressing his delight with God’s majesty, love, goodness and beauty. I would particularly like to greet both Father and Mother General Superiors who are leading events to celebrate the Jubilee Year of Blessed Father Bronisław Markiewicz, the founder of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel. The 29th January 2012 is the hundredth year anniversary of his death. I pray for all the participants on this day of celebration and throughout the Jubilee year.

Blessed Bronisław Markiewicz was sensitive to human misery. He took particular interest in the education of children and youth from the poorest families. His pupils were often neglected, morally and religiously. Blessed Bronisław once said: *“I wish to gather millions of the poorest children of all nations so that I can feed their bodies and souls for free.”* His educational methods based on faith, temperance and work, shaped in the Association of “Temperance and Work” and a monthly magazine, were genuinely approved. Father Markiewicz’s spiritual heritage is now realized by both male and female branches of the Congregation of St Michael the Archangel. The educational centers in Miejsce Piastowe and Pawlikowice are well-known. I would like to express my gratitude to all of you, who continue his work in parishes, educational centers in Poland and missions abroad.

I am glad that the one hundredth anniversary of his death is another occasion for you to recall his life and mission as well as to evaluate your work in the light of modern evangelization and human needs. I wish to encourage you, my dear Priests, Brothers and Sisters, to revive the spirit of prayer and apostolic zeal on the model of Blessed Bronisław Trust in God totally, just as he did. May Blessed Bronisław and the martyrs of your Congregation, Fr Władysław Bładzinski, Fr Wojciech Nierychlewski and the servant of God Anna Kaworek intercede for you and your ministry.

I entrust the whole Congregation to St Michel the Archangel. I give my apostolic blessing to all participants of the Jubilee Year celebrations.

The Holy Father Benedict XVI

Vatican, 19th January, 2012.