



Conference of Major Superiors of Men

On behalf of all the members of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM) I wish to express our sorrow and sadness at the death of Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States. The Catholic Church in the United States (and throughout the world) was truly blessed to have had such a gifted and talented man of faith and wonderful representative of His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI present among us for these past five years.

The Archbishop was a true friend to women and men religious and often expressed his care and affection for us in so many ways over the period of his tenure as Apostolic Nuncio. His graciousness and kindness will be sorely missed. Two years ago the Conference was privileged to have His Excellency as the keynote presenter at our 2009 CMSM Assembly in St. Louis, where he spoke eloquently and passionately to us about what a gift religious life is to the Church, as well as what it means today to be a religious who is sent by Christ into the world to proclaim the Gospel. Both his presentation and his exuberant personal presence throughout the days of our gathering were certainly very well appreciated and enjoyed by our members and guests, together with those who copartner with our religious institutes in their mission of service to Christ and his Church.

Though he was with us for so brief a period of time, Archbishop Sambi did leave a deep impression and mark of goodness and kindness on us all. As religious we understand that service to Christ and his Church exacts sacrifice from all who place their lives in faith and hope into the hands of God. We likewise believe that the joy of the Resurrection of Christ Jesus and the blessing of eternal life and love awaits all who choose to follow him. So we believe that God's good and faithful servant, Archbishop Sambi, now enjoys the fulfillment of that promise.

We pray for his family and friends and all who have been his collaborators in ministry. May the joy and peace of Christ, which is beyond all understanding, be with us all as we mourn the death of a beloved priest, shepherd and disciple of Christ who walked among us for a while, pointing to the crown of glory which awaits.

Archbishop Sambi, you will indeed be missed!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Very Rev. Thomas Cassidy, SCJ
President