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In a world where the name of God is sometimes associated with vengeance or even a duty of hatred and violence... I wish in my first Encyclical to speak of the love which God lavishes upon us, and which we in turn must share with others.
POPE BENEDICT XVI

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Media coverage of Regensburg "providential," prelate says

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Rome, Sep. 26 (CWNews.com) - The controversy stirred by Pope Benedict's speech in Regensburg has proved "providential," according to the president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, because the net result has reinvigorated dialogue between Catholics and Muslims.

Archbishop John Foley made his remarks at a September 26 press conference in Rome, held to announce plans for the World Congress of Catholic Television, which will be held in Spain in October. The American archbishop added that the heavy media coverage of the Pontiff's talk had allowed Pope Benedict to clarify his original statement. Archbishop Foley noted that the media coverage had provided opportunities for a fast-paced exchange, making it possible for the Pope to clear up misinterpretations of his remarks. In the two weeks since the Regensburg speech, he observed, Islamic leaders had reacted to the first reports about the text, the Vatican had issued some explanatory statements, the Pope himself had twice clarified his meaning, and the Pontiff had met with ambassadors from Islamic countries to follow up on the discussion. At each step in this process, the archbishop said, the Holy See had been able to use the means of mass communication to advance understanding. Archbishop Foley concluded that proper media coverage can help help people "acquire a deeper understanding of our neighbors of other religions."

Glossary Terms: Pontifical Council for Social Communications

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Posted by: miasarx - Sep. 26, 2006 8:39 PM ET USA

"Proper" media coverage would have had no effect. Christians are simply not allowed to say anything critical of Muhammad or Islam. And that is unreasonable of Muslims, exactly what B16 was saying.