

SECRETARIAT OF STATE

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From the Vatican, 27 March 2020

Reverend Father,

I thank you for your letter of 7 March 2020 in which you kindly informed me of the imminent release of a digital edition of *La Civiltà Cattolica* in the Chinese language. The circumstance offers me the pleasure to formulate words of congratulations to this prestigious review, one of the oldest in the world, which on the 170th anniversary of its existence intends to launch a new initiative at the service of the Gospel, and write a new chapter fruit of the friendly encounter with the rich tradition of the Chinese people. This demonstrates that «every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.» (Mt 13:52)

This laudable project corresponds suitably with your particular vocation, as Pope Francis reminded you at the beginning of his Petrine ministry as Pastor of the universal Church. To the writers of *La Civiltà Cattolica*, edited by members of the Society of Jesus, he said that their principle task is to build bridges and to establish a dialogue with all people, not only with believers, but also with those who not sharing the Christian faith, nonetheless nourish a particular respect for high human values. (cfr. *Discourse of Holy Father Francis to the Community of the College of Writers of «La Civiltà Cattolica»*, 14 June 2013).

Therefore, I can only express from the depths of my heart my warmest best wishes and the fervent hope that your review in the Chinese language might become a solid instrument of mutual cultural and scientific enrichment, among all people in search of beauty and truth. Thus, I hope, that the publications will be edited and prepared with dedication and read with interest, having as the ultimate goal, collaboration in the construction of an authentic civilization of open dialogue and lasting peace among all the peoples of the world.

I entrust this initiative to the Lord in prayer, and I greet you with deferential respect.

PIETRO CARD. PAROLIN
Secretary of State of His Holiness

Reverend Father
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