

**MEETING WITH THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**  
**ADDRESS OF THE HOLY FATHER**

*Cathedral of Saint Matthew, Washington, D.C.*

*23 September 2015*

[Link](#)

[...] The Church in the United States knows like few others the hopes present in the hearts of these “pilgrims”. From the beginning you have learned their languages, promoted their cause, made their contributions your own, defended their rights, helped them to prosper, and kept alive the flame of their faith. Even today, no American institution does more for immigrants than your Christian communities. [...] Perhaps it will not be easy for you to look into their soul; perhaps you will be challenged by their diversity. But know that they also possess resources meant to be shared. So do not be afraid to welcome them. Offer them the warmth of the love of Christ and you will unlock the mystery of their heart. I am certain that, as so often in the past, these people will enrich America and its Church.[...]