

## Vatican references to the International Criminal Court

### **(1) Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church**

“There is also present with the international community an *International Criminal Court* to punish those responsible for particularly serious acts such as genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes and crimes of aggression. The Magisterium has not failed to encourage this initiative time and time again.” (n. 506)

From Ch. 11, “The Promotion of Peace,” Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church (Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, 2005)

### **(2) John Paul II, 1999 World Day of Peace**

“A positive sign of the growing willingness of States to recognize their responsibility to protect victims of such crimes and to commit themselves to preventing them is the recent initiative of a United Nations Diplomatic Conference: it specifically approved the Statute of an International Criminal Court, the task of which it will be to identify guilt and to punish those responsible for crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity and crimes of war and aggression. This new institution, if built upon a sound legal foundation, could gradually contribute to ensuring on a world scale the effective protection of human rights.”

From John Paul II, Message for the 1999 World Day of Peace (1 January 1999), 7:AAS 91 (1999), 382

### **(3) John Paul II, address to human rights congress**

“Today the *educational dimension* is assuming particular importance in the pastoral promotion of human rights. Education in respect for human rights will naturally lead to the creation of a *true culture of human rights*, necessary if the *state of rights* is to function and if international society is truly to be based on respect for rights. The Diplomatic Conference of the United Nations is currently taking place in Rome to set up an international criminal court. I hope, as everyone hopes, that this conference will conclude with the creation of a new institution to protect the culture of human rights on a world scale.”

From John Paul II, Address to participants in the World Congress on Pastoral Promotion of Human Rights (4 July 1998), 5:*L'Osservatore Romano*, English edition, 29 July 1998, p. 8

### **(4) John Paul II, Sunday Angelus**

*After praying the Angelus, the Holy Father said:*

“The conference called by the United Nations to set up an International Criminal Court for judging the most serious crimes against humanity will begin tomorrow. I hope that the work of this important meeting will be inspired by a desire to provide for the adequate defence of fundamental and inalienable human rights. As I assure you of the Holy See’s active contribution to this important conference, I offer my best wishes to all the participants that it will constitute a historic step on the way to mutual understanding between nations.”

From John Paul II, Sunday Angelus (14 June 1998): *L'Osservatore Romano*, English edition, 17 June 1998, p. 1