

Pope Sends Good Wishes To China For A Successful Olympics

Five days before the start of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, Pope Benedict XVI publicly extended wishes for their success to China, the host country, and to organizers, athletes from around the world and other participants.

"Next Friday, Aug. 8, the 29th Olympic Games will open in Beijing. I am happy to address my cordial greeting to the host country, to the organizers and those participating -- in the first place to the athletes -- with the good wish that each may give the very best of themselves in the genuine Olympic spirit," he said.

"I follow with deep (feelings of) sympathy this great sporting event, the most important and most looked forward to at the world level," he continued. "And I strongly hope that it will offer the international community a valid example of coexistence between persons from the most different countries, in respect for their common dignity."

He concluded with the wish: "May sport once again be a pledge of brotherhood and peace among all peoples."
[UCAN 8-04-08]