Welcome Catholic Daughters of America

I am delighted to welcome the Catholic Daughters of America to St. Francis for their State Convention this weekend. It is a fitting opportunity for us to thank them for their love and dedication to the Church. I am very happy that they chose St. Francis as the venue for their convention. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) is one of the oldest and largest organizations of Catholic women in the Americas. It was founded in Utica, New York, in 1903 by John E. Carberry and several other Knights of Columbus, as a charitable, benevolent and patriotic sorority for Catholic ladies. They strive "to be helping hands where there is pain, poverty, sorrow or sickness." Their motto is "Unity and Charity."

Catholic Daughters of the Americas engages in creative and spiritual programs which provide its members with the opportunity to develop their God-given talents in meaningful ways that positively influence the welfare of the Church and all people throughout the world. "Catholic Daughters of the Americas strives to embrace the principle of faith working through love in the promotion of justice, equality, and the advancement of human rights and human dignity for all." Deeply spiritual, together they share faith, love of God, and a distinctly feminine spirituality alluded to by Pope John Paul II when he spoke of the necessity of "feminine genius" in today's world. We wish them a great convention and a wonderful time here at St. Francis.

We celebrate today The Divine Mercy Sunday. The message and devotion to Jesus as The Divine Mercy is based on the writings of
St. Faustina Kowalska, an uneducated Polish nun who, in obedience to her spiritual director, wrote a diary of about 600 pages recording the revelations she received about God's mercy. Even before her death in 1938, the devotion to The Divine Mercy had begun to spread. The message of mercy is that God loves us—all of us—no matter how great our sins. He wants us to recognize that His mercy is

greater than our sins, so that we will call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy, and let it flow through us to others. Let us remember the words of Christ: "Be merciful, just as your heavenly Father is merciful" Lk. 6:36.

—Father Jose