

Cheong Wa Dae

Office for Overseas Public Relations

Press Release

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[Immediate Release](#)

President Lee Congratulates the Holy See On Beatification of Pope John Paul II

President Lee Myung-bak has sent a letter to Pope Benedict XVI on the occasion of the Vatican's beatifying of Pope John Paul II today.

In the letter, President Lee reminisced about John Paul II's contribution to helping end East-West Cold War rivalries as well as his great endeavors to bring about world peace. The President pointed out the fact that Korea and Pope John Paul had a special affinity as seen in his visit to Seoul twice, in 1984 and 1989. In his 1984 visit, John Paul II presided over the canonization of 103 Catholics martyred in Korea. He expressed the hope that the Vatican would continue to give sustained support for establishing permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The Korean head of state also asked for Pope Benedict XVI's special attention to the beatification process of 124 Korean martyrs, who were Servants of God and Father Confessor Thomas Choe Yang-eop, which is now pending at the Congregation for the Causes of Saints of the Vatican.

The congratulatory letter was delivered to the Holy See through Foreign Minister Dominique Mamberti who received it personally from Han Hong-soon, the Korean Ambassador to the Vatican.

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