

**ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO THE MEMBERS OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS ACCREDITED TO THE
HOLY SEE
FOR THE TRADITIONAL EXCHANGE OF NEW YEAR GREETINGS**

*Sala Regia
Monday, 9 January 2017*

“We know that there has been no shortage of acts of religiously motivated violence, beginning with Europe itself, where the historical divisions between Christians have endured all too long. In my recent visit to Sweden, I mentioned the urgent need for healing past wounds and journeying together towards common goals. The basis of that journey can only be authentic dialogue between different religious confessions. Such dialogue is possible and necessary, as I wished to show by my meeting in Cuba with Patriarch Kirill of Moscow, as well as by my Apostolic Journeys to Armenia, Georgia and Azerbaijan, where I sensed the rightful aspiration of those peoples to resolve conflicts which for years have threatened social harmony and peace.”

(Pope Francis’ address to the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See for the traditional exchange of New Year Greetings, Sala Regia, Apostolic Palace, Vatican City State, Monday, 9 January 2017)