

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is an honor for me to greet the members and guests of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation and to join you in honoring a select few who have proven themselves worthy of receiving the Foundation's Appeal of Conscience Award.

You know better than I the reasons for which these individuals merit this honor. However, allow me to add a few words of congratulations from Hungary, a small European nation, which is presently undergoing dramatic religious and social renewal. My words concern the First Lady, Mrs. Barbara Bush.

During President Bush's official visit to Hungary, Mrs. Bush took the time to tour Saint Ann's home for blind and handicapped children which is independently run by the Catholic Church. Due to the press' coverage, the entire nation learned of her visit. Through her gesture, Mrs. Bush endeared herself to all Hungarians and won the hearts of its Catholic people.

Following her visit, the State donated a large and very suitable tract of land as well as a vacant building in order to ensure that the home could serve an even larger number of suffering children. It is true that the building is in need of repair. But I am confident that through generosity and self-sacrifice the work will be done and the home will continue its noble task.

As I extend best wishes to all of the honorees, permit me, therefore, to express to Mrs. Bush the gratitude of the Catholic Church in Hungary for her heartfelt visit to St. Ann's. From the bottom of my heart, I ask God to bless the First Lady and her many endeavors. Likewise, I pray that God's blessings accompany President Bush in his work in behalf of the United States and of the world.

Thank you.