

*On celebrating the Golden Jubilee of the Priesthood of Monsignor Juan Hervás y Benet, John Paul II wanted to send him his greetings, gratitude, and recognition.*

*This Pastor, who at only thirty-eight years of age had been called to the fullness of his priesthood, being appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Valencia, Coadjutor Bishop first and then Resident Bishop of Mallorca and Bishop of Ciudad Real, and who would have brilliant participation in the First Vatican Council, with prolific interventions, notable for their ponderation and love for the Church, deserved in the celebration of these fifty years of dedication, this gift from the Pontiff.*

*In a note in which he recognizes that his name will be perpetuated, above all, as Bishop Promoter of the Cursillos of Christianity, Cursillos, which he nourished with his doctrine, defended with his courage, encouraged with his support, spread with his writings and for which he also suffered much, the Holy Father points out to him:*

John Paul II to Venerable Brother JUAN HERVAS Y BENET, Titular Bishop of Alinda Prelate Dimissionary of Ciudad Real.

Venerable Brother:

Since the joyous date of your priestly jubilee is imminent, I too wish to express my congratulations and best wishes, with which my affection for you is manifest. For, considering all Bishops as brothers, apostles of the Churches and glory of Christ (cf. 2 Cor 8:28), according to the mind of St. Paul, it is most fitting that, at least through these letters, I share your joy, and I give thanks to God with you, from whom every good and every perfect gift proceeds (Jac 1:17).

Fifty years ago, you were called to the highest honors of this earth and the gravest responsibilities; you were clothed with priestly dignity and then elevated, by episcopal consecration, to the fullness of the priesthood. We know with what zeal, for the glory of God and the good of souls, you have worked throughout your life and how you have exercised the offices entrusted to you with the priestly order.

The Majorcan Church first had you as a good and faithful Bishop, a pastor devoted to the flock, solicitous for the needs of the faithful and the good of souls. When later, in 1955, you were entrusted with the government of the Prelature of Ciudad Real, the same priestly zeal, born of solid faith and your fidelity to the visible Head of the Church, impelled you to look after the pastoral good of the new community, with excellent initiatives. Among other things, you created new parishes and took care of the restoration of the cathedral.

Your zeal as a pastor, however, stood out in your special care for the effective promotion of religious formation, primarily through the Cursillos de Cristiandad, which you promoted and took care that they spread throughout Latin America.

You carried out many other initiatives for a successful renewal of the sacred Liturgy, and you dedicated tireless efforts to catechesis and adult formation, using the lay faithful, whom you effectively associated with your work, to cultivate the Lord's vineyard.

You have, therefore, reason to rejoice, Venerable Brother, and to give many thanks to the Giver of all good for the abundant harvest of spiritual fruits that He has granted you to gather.

May the Virgin Mary, the fruitful mother of the Apostles and Bishops, smile upon you always and obtain abundant gifts from heaven for you and all those who celebrate this natal feast of your priesthood with you.

These ardent wishes, which we have wholeheartedly expressed to you, are confirmed by the Apostolic Blessing, which we impart to you with great love.

Vatican City, 26 May 1979, the first of our Pontificate.

John Paul II, Pope