



SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS

No. 367.886

From the Vatican, 21 August 2017

Dear Monsignor Ćosić,

In reply to a request for a Papal Message for the XXIV World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea, meeting in Kaohsiung from 1 to 7 October 2017, I would ask you kindly to transmit the following:

President of the XXIV World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea

His Holiness Pope Francis sends cordial greetings and prayerful best wishes to the participants in the twenty-fourth World Congress of the Apostleship of the Sea. In giving thanks to Almighty God for the many graces received through its work over many years, His Holiness prays that the bishops, priests, religious and lay faithful gathered for this significant Congress, will be strengthened in their support of all those who work at sea. As you address the particular needs of those who labour in the fishing sector, Pope Francis hopes that Christians may recognize the valuable lesson we can learn from them, "about a Church which makes room for God's mystery; a Church which harbours that mystery in such a way that it can entice people" and attract them to himself (cf. Address to the Bishops of Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 28 July 2013). In entrusting all seafarers and their families to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Stella Maris and Stella Matutina, His Holiness gladly imparts his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of peace and joy in the Lord.

*Cardinal Pietro Parolin
Secretary of State*

With gratitude for your valued assistance, I remain

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Monsignor Slađan Ćosić
Chargé d'Affaires, a.i.
Apostolic Nunciature in China
TAIPEI