SECRETARIAT OF STATE No. 285.838/G.N.

FROM THE VATICAN,

October 8, 1991

Dear Cardinal Lopez Trujillo,

The Holy Father was pleased to learn of the forthcoming International Meeting of Catholic Engaged Encounter and the subsequent National Convention of Catholic Engaged Encounter in the United States, to be held in Omaha, Nebraska. He asks you kindly to convey to all taking part his cordial greetings and the assurance of his close pastoral interest.

His Holiness deeply appreciates the important ecclesial service rendered by married couples who assist those preparing for the Sacrament of Matrimony. He encourages the members of Catholic Engaged Encounter to share joyfully with others the fruits of God's grace in their lives, and he prays that by their example of personal holiness and fidelity to their vocation they will lead young people to appreciate ever more fully the lofty place of marriage and the family in God's plan for the salvation of mankind.

Since Christian married couples have a fundamental role to play in the development of a "civilization of love" founded on respect for the dignity of every human being, the Holy Father urges them to bear ever more effective witness to the "Gospel of life and love" in society. He invites them to discover in the grace of the sacrament a source of daily renewed inspiration and strength as they strive to promote the Church's mission of loving service to others and the defense of God's gift of life at every stage of its existence.

With these thoughts, His Holiness commends all the members of Catholic Engaged Encounter to the loving intercession of Mary, Mother of the Church. As a pledge clf grace and peace in the Lord Jesus Christ, he cordially imparts to them and their families the requested Apostolic Blessing.

With every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Secretary of State