

## LETTER FROM AIRTON VIEIRA

### His Holiness

Pope Benedict XVI

Monastero Mater Ecclesiae

00120 CITTÁ DEL VATICANO

Dear **Holy Father**

In my youth, around the eighties, for the first time I heard about a Cardinal Ratzinger prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. The name scared me because it sounded severe. And immediately the figure of a ***brave Bavarian*** (a term used in my Preface to "Benedict XVI: Pope 'Emeritus'?" by Estefanía Acosta, which, we know, is known to the Pope) came to mind, a burly and robust man with an "axe laid to the root of the trees" in the manner of a heretic's hammer. But strangely enough, despite the first impression, a natural and almost immediate affection for the gentleman arose, without knowing anything about him.

Many years passed and one day, "out of the blue", I dreamed about you. In the dream, a moment of turmoil that forced you to leave the place where you were, in haste, for another, unknown place. So they put him in a car, with a prelate and a driver, and *asked me* to help him. We got into the car, which was an old one, and left. In our wake, people were following us. And the dream ends there. Dreams that leave us with the strong impression of something more than a dream...

Today, I am here, but to ask you, me, *ein Geburtstagsgeschenke (a gift)* on your birthday: allow me to climb with you in your "automobile" towards the "unknown place". In your thoughts and prayers at least, as well as those for whom I pray, your family, your children, "the whole world".

Thank you for all that you were, **are** and will be to us.

Thank you for your "fiat", with Mary.

Thank you **for being** a good **worker in the Vineyard of the Lord**.

Thank you for your "***loquendo et agendo***", your "***orando et patiendo***".

Thank you for your **paternal munus** of love, close to the cross, **until the end**.

Thank you, **Holy Father**. May God reward you! Amen.

Airton Vieira - Brazil

**REPLY LETTER OF BENEDICT XVI**

SECRETARIAT OF STATE

FIRST SECTION - GENERAL AFFAIRS

Vatican City, May 10, 2022

Dear Sir

Your letter, with which you sent your greetings to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, enriched by the offer of prayers for his person and intentions, was greatly appreciated.

His Holiness wishes to convey to you the expression of his gratitude for the homage received and asks you to continue to pray for him so that he may live this last stage of his life ever more united to Christ, who "has transformed into thanksgiving, and thus into blessing, the cross, suffering, all the evil of the world" (Benedict XVI, Commemoration of the 65th anniversary of his priestly Ordination, 28/6/2016). The Pope Emeritus encourages Mr. Airton, together with his family, to join in Christ's thanksgiving "and thus truly receive the newness of life and contribute to the transubstantiation of the world: that it may not be a world of death but of life, a world in which love has conquered death" (ibid.). As confirmation of these vows, he prays that in his home God's blessings may always abound.

I take this opportunity to witness to him sentiments of fraternal esteem in Christ the Lord.

Msgr. Luigi Roberto Cona

*Advisor*