Archbishop Carroll's address to the Holy Father

Most Holy Father,

On behalf of the Australian Catholic Bishops ' Conference here present before you and the Catholic people of Australia , I am honoured to offer you greetings of reverence and affection. In our own name as your brother Bishops and that of the Priests, Deacons, Religious and Lay Faithful entrusted to our pastoral care we pledge our loyalty to you as the Successor of St Peter.We assure Your Holiness of our constant prayer that you would be strengthened in body and refreshed in spirit as you continue at great personal cost to show your solicitude for all the Churches. Last October some of us were privileged to be here in Rome as you were honoured for the 25 years of your Pontificate. We again express our admiration and gratitude for your long years of faithful service and of your inspiring leadership of the Church Universal.In particular we are deeply grateful for the individual attention you have given to us in our private audiences and for this fraternal