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Dear Participants in the **New York Encounter** of 2016:

I am grateful to know that you will be gathering once again in New York on January 15-17. Please know that you are blessed by the spiritual accompaniment of the Holy Father Pope Francis.

The Holy Father wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium*: "In fidelity to the example of the Master, it is vitally important for the Church today to go forth and preach the Gospel to all: to all places, on all occasions, without hesitation, reluctance or fear" (23).

May this year's Encounter be, for all who participate, a grace-filled time to be renewed in the courage that comes from Christ. Entrusting you to Mary, Mother of the Church, His Holiness Pope Francis cordially imparts to all of you his Apostolic Blessing as a pledge of strength and joy in the Lord.

Assuring you and all of the participants of my own prayerful good wishes, I am,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò
Apostolic Nuncio

NEW YORK ENCOUNTER
January 15-17, 2016
Metropolitan Pavilion
New York, NY