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## EISENHOWER FELLOWSHIPS

September 18, 2015

His Holiness  
Pope Francis  
The Apostolic Palace  
00120 Vatican City

Personally Delivered by: Sister Mary Scullion, R.S.M., Executive Director, Project H.O.M.E.

Your Holiness,

Eisenhower Fellowships, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization established in 1953 to propagate President Dwight D. Eisenhower's vision of peace, justice and prosperity among the people of the world, is honored to extend a warm welcome and embrace your presence in Philadelphia, the city that has been our home for 62 years.

When President Dwight D. Eisenhower met with Pope John XXIII in 1959, he was the first American head of state to visit a reigning pope in 40 years, beginning a tradition of American presidential visits to the papal seat that continues to this day. This principle of international exchange to inform our understanding of a common reality across cultures and religions is at the core of Eisenhower Fellowships' mission today. We believe it resonates deeply with your Holiness' leadership in fomenting the comprehension, peace and social justice that are essential for stability and human development.

These common values resound beyond the Catholic realm and reflect the efforts and achievements of Eisenhower Fellowships' more than 1,400 influential Fellows in more than 50 countries working across government, business and non-governmental sectors. Among our ranks are Christians, Jews, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists and every manner of race, nationality and creed, united in our passion for the powerful promise of humanity and our commitment to enhance international understanding that will help create a better world.

We salute Your Holiness, we thank you for your visit and we embrace your message of social consciousness and inclusion. Together with you, we look forward to a world where our individual and communal efforts, regardless of background and religion, can lead to greater meaning and purpose for all people.

With the most profound respect,

George de Lama  
President

**Leaders bettering the world around them.**

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