



**GUARDIA SVIZZERA
PONTIFICIA**

Città del Vaticano,

COMANDO

N.

Dear General:

I am very happy to be with you here today, together with my friends, the Philharmonica of Canobbia-Lugano and a representative of the Swiss Army. It is a great honor, both for myself and for all the members of the Swiss Guard.

This is for me a momentous event, when the Commander of the smallest army in the world – the Swiss Guard of the Vatican – meets the Commander of one of the Units of the largest military defence force in the world. We in the Swiss Guard have great admiration for the U.S. Marines because we consider you to be the best in the world! My prayer for you is that you continue in your excellent service of your country and of the democratic institutions of the world, and I ask God to send you his abundant blessings.

Dear General, please accept the official Pontifical Medal of His Holiness Pope John Paul II as a sign of our admiration and friendship. Permit me also to present a second Medal to my dear friend, Father Simone, who also commenced his career in the U.S. Marines!

Colonel R. Buchs
Commander of the Swiss Guards