

Benedict XVI encourages child protection workers

VATICAN, April 25, 2010-- Benedict XVI is thanking and encouraging all those who work to protect children from violence and exploitation.

The Pope addressed these workers today after praying the midday Regina Coeli with the pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

"I direct a special greeting to the Mefer Association, which, for the past 14 years, has promoted the national day for children who are victims of violence, exploitation and indifference," he said.

Last year the association, founded by Father Fortunato Di Noto, helped U.S. and Italian authorities uncover and prosecute 100 online pedophile communities.

The Pontiff continued, "On this occasion I would like above all to thank and encourage those who dedicate themselves to prevention and education, especially parents, teachers, many priests, sisters, catechists and leaders who work with the young people in the parishes, schools and associations." (Zenit)