## ARCHDIOCESE, OF CHICAGO

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August 17, 2003

Dear Father Joe, Father Tomislav and Parishioners:

What a beautiful experience it was for me to be with you this past Friday! Our elegant, spiritual celebration made a deep impression on me. Your reverence and warmth, your spirit and joy, your tradition and faith – all are a treasure both for yourselves as well as the Church of Chicago. The grace of God and His Holy Spirit is abundantly present to you!

How I want to encourage you to continue your strong devotion to Jesus Christ, His Church and your heritage! The grace of God and His Holy Spirit is abundantly present at St. Jerome Church. Prayer, worship and celebration with you is being on sacred ground.

I am grateful to the Croatian Franciscan Fathers, your ministers and staff for all they do. I am grateful, as well, to you my Croatian friends as your have "kept the faith." Indeed, St. Jerome Croatian Parish is a jewel in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

You have a special remembrance in my prayers. Please keep me in yours.

In the Lord Jesus:

+Bishop Gustavo