Pope Calls for Fiercer AIDS Fight

November 29, 2007

On Wednesday, November 27, Pope Benedict XVI called for increased efforts to stop the spread of HIV and said that he felt “spiritually close” to people suffering from AIDS (ap.google.com, 11/29).

“I am asking all people of goodwill to multiply efforts to stop the spread of the HIV virus, to oppose the scorn that often strikes those affected and to take care of the sick, especially the children,” he said.

Benedict made this statement to his weekly public audience while speaking about the upcoming World AIDS Day, December 1.

“I am spiritually close to those who suffer as a result of this terrible illness as well as to their families, in particular those struck by the loss of a close relative,” the pontiff said. “I assure my prayers for all.”

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