

PRESS INFORMATION
PAPAL VISIT 2011

23.09.2011



Bishop Dr Joachim Wanke
Bishop of Erfurt

Welcoming the Holy Father
in Eetzelsbach
on 23 September 2011

Holy Father,

On behalf of the pilgrims here at the Marian pilgrimage site of Eetzelsbach and on behalf of all those who watch this celebration on TV, I would like to give you a very warm welcome.

For many generations pilgrims from far and near have prayed here, but never before has such a prominent pilgrim visited this site. That a successor of Saint Peter prays with us here on the Eichsfeld and greets Mary, Our Lady and Mother together with us fills all the pilgrims present with great joy. Welcome!

It is right to call the Eichsfeld region a Marian land. The veneration of Mary, the mother of Our Lord, has a long-standing tradition here. The people especially have turned to Our Lady of Sorrows showing us her Son who died on the cross. We would also like to turn to her today.

But first of all several Christians from the Eichsfeld region would like to present some aspects of Christian life in this area.

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