I want there to be a presence in these Federal bureaucracies. I want somebody in there agitating for fairness, understanding the great hope of this initiative.

In 2003, grants to faith-based programs had gone up by 20 percent, and what’s important for you to understand is that all the grant money hasn’t just gone to the established faith providers, like the Salvation Army, which has done a fantastic job, or Catholic Charities, which has done a fantastic job in America. But I want to make sure that social entrepreneurs, large and small, had access to Federal money. In other words, we want to make sure that the program reaches some of the most lonely corners in America, that we touch both large and small providers. And we’re making progress. And I’m asking Towey all the time, “Are we reaching new programs? Are we making a difference in other neighborhoods? Are we making sure that this has a broad reach throughout America?” And I’m proud to report that thousands of small groups, tiny grassroots organizations, are being touched by this initiative, and that’s important.

Let me tell you why I feel so strongly about this initiative, because I understand the true strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. Interestingly enough, I wasn’t the first person to recognize this, nor will I be the last. De Tocqueville, fine fellow from France, came to the United States in the 1830s. And he studied what made America unique. And what he found was, the uniqueness of America then was their eagerness to come together to form associations to enable people to serve a cause greater than themselves. Many of those associations existed because of religion; a lot of them didn’t. But there was this great desire for Americans to voluntarily associate in order to help realize an ambition deep within our soul, and that is to make our country a better place and, at the same time, make ourself a better person by working to help somebody who hurts. He recognized, de Tocqueville recognized that a strength—that that was our strength then. It’s very important for those of us in public policy to recognize that it is our strength today.

And so I want to thank you all for being a soldier in the army of compassion, some of you privates, some of you sergeants, some of you generals, all soldiers, bound together by the great desire to love a neighbor just like you’d like to be loved yourself.

Over the next 4 years, I’ll continue to work with our faith- and community-based programs to save America one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

Thanks for coming today. God bless.

NOTE: The President spoke at approximately 10:55 a.m. at Paul Public Charter School. In his remarks, he referred to Barbara Nophlin, head of school, Paul Public Charter School. The transcript released by the Office of the Press Secretary also included the remarks of the First Lady.
intelligence capabilities presented their report. I asked these men and women to give an unvarnished look at our intelligence about weapons of mass destruction, and they have delivered. I appreciate their hard work. Their recommendations are thoughtful and extremely significant, and their central conclusion is one that I share: America's intelligence community needs fundamental change to enable us to successfully confront the threats of the 21st century.

My administration has already taken steps consistent with the Commission's recommendations. In February, I nominated John Negroponte to be our first Director of National Intelligence. This post was created to help ensure that our intelligence community works as a single, unified enterprise. When Members of Congress return to Washington, I urge them to move quickly on his confirmation because he will have a key role in the continued reform and restructuring of our intelligence capabilities.

This week, I also directed Homeland Security Adviser Fran Townsend to oversee the interagency review of the Commission's findings and ensure that concrete action is taken.

The Commission's report delivers a sharp critique of the way intelligence has been collected and analyzed against some of the most difficult intelligence targets, like Iraq. To win the war on terror, we will correct what needs to be fixed and build on what the Commission calls “solid intelligence successes.” These include the uncovering of Libya's nuclear and missile programs, which led Libya's leader to renounce weapons of mass destruction. In Pakistan, our intelligence helped expose and shut down the world's most dangerous nuclear proliferation network. We need to learn from the successes we've had and apply the lessons elsewhere.

We also acknowledge the hard work and sacrifices of the men and women in our intelligence community. These talented people are on the frontlines in the war on terror. Their work is critical. We must prevent terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass murder that they would use against our people.

The work our intelligence community is doing is also extremely difficult. Every day, dangerous regimes are working to conceal their programs and their possible relationships with terrorists. And the work our intelligence men and women do is, by nature, secret. The American people never hear about many of America's intelligence successes, but I'm aware of them. I'm proud of our efforts of our intelligence workers to defend our country, and the American people should be as well.

The President and his national security team must have intelligence that is timely and accurate. In its report, the Commission points out that America needs to know much more about the weapons programs and intentions of our most dangerous adversaries. The members of the Commission have given useful and important guidance that will help transform our intelligence capabilities for the needs of a dangerous new century, and we will continue to give our intelligence professionals the tools they need and the structure they deserve so they can succeed in their essential work.

It is not possible to guarantee perfect security in our vast free Nation, but at a time when we're at war and our margin for error is getting smaller, the consequences of underestimating a threat could be tens of thousands of innocent lives. I can assure you that the men and women in our intelligence community are working around the clock and doing everything they can to keep us safe, and my administration will continue to make intelligence reforms that will allow them to identify threats before they fully emerge so we can take action to protect the American people.

Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 7:34 a.m. on April 1 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on April
2. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 1 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his address, the President referred to Col. Muammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhafi, leader of Libya. He also referred to the Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks on the Death of Pope John Paul II
April 2, 2005

Laura and I join people across the Earth in mourning the passing of Pope John Paul II. The Catholic Church has lost its shepherd. The world has lost a champion of human freedom, and a good and faithful servant of God has been called home.

Pope John Paul II left the throne of Saint Peter in the same way he ascended to it, as a witness to the dignity of human life. In his native Poland, that witness launched a democratic revolution that swept Eastern Europe and changed the course of history. Throughout the West, John Paul’s witness reminded us of our obligation to build a culture of life in which the strong protect the weak. And during the Pope’s final years, his witness was made even more powerful by his daily courage in the face of illness and great suffering.

All Popes belong to the world, but Americans had special reason to love the man from Krakow. In his visits to our country, the Pope spoke of our “providential” Constitution, the self-evident truths about human dignity in our Declaration, and the “blessings of liberty” that follow from them. “It is these truths,” he said, “that have led people all over the world to look to America with hope and respect.”

Pope John Paul II was, himself, an inspiration to millions of Americans and to so many more throughout the world. We will always remember the humble, wise, and fearless priest who became one of history’s great moral leaders. We’re grateful to God for sending such a man, a son of Poland, who became the Bishop of Rome and a hero for the ages.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:02 p.m. in the Cross Hall at the White House. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of these remarks. The proclamation of April 2 honoring the memory of Pope John Paul II is listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

The President’s News Conference With President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine
April 4, 2005

President Bush. Thank you. It’s an honor to stand with a courageous leader of a free Ukraine. Mr. President, you are a friend to our country, and you are an inspiration to all who love liberty. Welcome to America, and we’re pleased to welcome your wife as well. We’re looking forward to having lunch with you.