

Legatus®

The Preeminent Organization of Catholic CEOs & Business Leaders

Invites you to attend its

Boston Chapter's AUGUST MEETING!
Thursday, August 17, 2006

Speaker: Andreas Widmer
Legatus Member

Topic: "Reflections of a Bodyguard to Pope John Paul II"



I arrived in Rome in December of 1986, and began active duty on Christmas Eve. That was the first time I met him in person. It was one of those moments that you remember your whole life. When a person is prayerful, and centered on Christ, they exude peace and confidence. People like that shine, and shine he did.

As a newbie, my duty was to guard the door of the papal apartment. When he emerged, he looked straight at me with his deep gray eyes, and speaking to me in German said, "You're new," and walked over to me. "You grew well, didn't you?" he remarked upon noticing my 6'9" frame.

I wasn't in the best of moods that night. I had a serious bout of homesickness, and as the youngest of six, was sorely missing the Christmas Eve festivities back home. The earlier phone call home had only made it worse.

The Holy Father noticed, and as he firmly held my arm, told me he would pray for me during the mass that evening. Then he thanked me for my service. For two minutes he gave me his undivided attention. This was the beginning of a remarkable experience as a member of the Pontifical Swiss Guard which will impact me forever.



Bio: Andreas Widmer draws on 15 years of experience in growing and managing companies. He most recently served as **CEO of OTF Group**, a leading VC backed business strategy consulting firm. OTF was founded as part of the **Monitor Group**, and advises corporate leaders, heads of state and entrepreneurs in developing economies. Prior to joining OTF Group, he held several executive management positions at high technology firms. At **FTP Software**, Andreas was responsible for all sales, marketing communications and product management outside the USA. The company introduced the first commercial IP product for IBM PC's and its IPO was one of the first and largest in 1993. At **Dragon Systems**, a pioneer in the speech recognition industry he played an integral role in the firm's gain of more than 50% world-wide market share, to become the 7th largest software publisher and eventually be sold for \$600m. As VP International at **Eprise Corporation**, which provides Strategic Content Management solutions to Fortune 1000 companies, Andreas was instrumental in positioning the company for sale to Divine, Inc. Andreas served for two years as a **Pontifical Swiss Guard** under Pope John Paul II, and also functioned as a non commissioned officer of the Swiss army. He holds business degrees from Switzerland and a degree in International Business from the US. Andreas serves on several corporate boards and is a frequent public speaker on corporate strategy, technology and sustainable economic prosperity.

Thursday August 17, 2006
Weston Golf Club
275 Meadowbrook Rd, Weston MA

6:00 pm - Confession
6:30 pm - Mass
7:00 pm - Dinner and Program

Please RSVP by August 14 to:

Gerard or Peter Marino, Chapter Coordinators

Email: LegatusBoston@gmail.com
Phone: 617-830-0249

Members' guests welcome for a \$75 dinner fee.