



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE **BOLLETTINO**

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHL
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BIURO PRASOWE STOLICY APOSTOLSKIEJ دار الصحافة التابعة للكرسي الرسولي

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Holy See Press Office Communiqué: Audience with the Prime Minister of the Republic of Malta

This morning, the Holy Father Francis received in audience the Prime Minister of Malta, His Excellency Mr. Robert Abela, who subsequently met with His Eminence Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, accompanied by His Excellency Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher, Secretary for Relations with States.

During the cordial discussions in the Secretariat of State, the good bilateral relations and fruitful collaboration between the Church and the State were underlined. The parties focused on the contribution of Christianity to the history, culture and life of the Maltese people, and on the Church's commitment to the human and social development of the country, especially in the fields of education and welfare. Issues of common interest were then discussed, such as migration, to which the Church and the Government are strongly committed, and some ethical issues.

Attention then turned to the European and international situation, with particular attention to the Mediterranean region, as well as the importance of ecumenical and interreligious dialogue in building peace and brotherhood among peoples.

From the Vatican, 8 October 2021