



SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE
BOLLETTINO

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIÈGE PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE SALA DE IMPRENSA DA SANTA SÉ
BIURO PRASOWE STOLICY APOSTOLSKIEJ دار الصحافة التابعة للكرسي الرسولي

N. 241215e

Sunday 15.12.2024

Apostolic Journey of the Holy Father Francis to Ajaccio at the conclusion of the Congress “La Religiosité Populaire en Méditerranée (15 December 2024) – Meeting with the President of the French Republic, Farewell Ceremony from Ajaccio, Telegram to the President of the French Republic and Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic

Meeting with the President of the French Republic in the Airport Conference Hall

Farewell Ceremony from Ajaccio at “Napoléon Bonaparte” International Airport, Ajaccio

Telegram to the President of the French Republic

Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic

Meeting with the President of the French Republic in the Airport Conference Hall

At 17.50, the Holy Father Francis arrived at “Napoléon Bonaparte” International Airport in Ajaccio, where, in the *Hall de Conférences*, he met with the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Macron, in the presence of Cardinal Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, the Substitute for General Affairs, Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, the Apostolic Nuncio and the counsellors of the Apostolic Nunciature.

Farewell Ceremony from Ajaccio at “Napoléon Bonaparte” International Airport, Ajaccio

At 18.50, at “Napoléon Bonaparte” International Airport, the farewell ceremony from Ajaccio took place.

After greeting the President of the Republic, His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Macron, the local entourage and the French delegation, the Holy Father Francis boarded an Air A230 Neo aircraft, and departed at 19.13 for the

return journey to Italy.

The aircraft carrying the Holy Father on the return trip from his Apostolic Journey to Ajaccio landed at *Leonardo da Vinci* Rome-Fiumicino International Airport at 19.56.

Telegram to the President of the French Republic

Immediately after departure, the Holy Father Francis sent the following telegram to the President of the French Republic, His Excellency Mr. Emmanuel Macron:

HIS EXCELLENCY
MR. EMMANUEL MACRON
PRESIDENT OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC
PARIS

AS I LEAVE AJACCIO AND FRANCE, DESTINED FOR ROME, I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS MY THANKS AND GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND TO THE PEOPLE OF FRANCE. IN REMEMBERING YOU, I ASSURE YOU OF MY PRAYERS. MAY THE LORD GRANT YOUR COUNTRY PROSPERITY, UNITY AND HARMONY. I GLADLY INVOKE GOD'S BLESSINGS ON THE FRENCH NATION.

FRANCIS

Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic

As he returned to Italy following his Apostolic Journey to Ajaccio, the Holy Father Francis sent the following telegram to the President of the Italian Republic, the Honorable Sergio Mattarella:

HIS EXCELLENCY
HON. SERGIO MATTARELLA
PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
QUIRINAL PALACE, 00187 ROME

HIS EXCELLENCY

HON. SERGIO MATTARELLA
PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC
QUIRINAL PALACE, 00187 ROME

AS I EMBARK ON MY APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO AJACCIO FOR THE CONGRESS ON POPULAR PIETY IN THE MEDITERRANEAN, IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME TO RENEW MY INVITATION TO CONSIDER THE RELIGIOUS-ARTISTIC-CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE MANY CIVILIZATIONS BORDERING THE MARE NOSTRUM, WHICH, DESPITE HISTORICAL EVENTS, HAVE CAREFULLY CONSERVED THE SPIRITUAL LEGACY HANDED DOWN BY THEIR FATHERS IN FAITH. I HOPE THAT THIS SINGULAR EVENT MAY INSPIRE GREATER INTEREST IN REDISCOVERING THE DESIRE TO DRAW ON THE SOUND VALUES THAT HAVE FORGED MEN AND WOMEN, SO THAT IN THE FRUITFUL DIALOGUE BETWEEN RELIGIONS, POLITICAL INSTITUTIONS AND THE WORLD OF KNOWLEDGE, RESPECT FOR ONE'S ROOTS, THE FREEDOM TO BEAR WITNESS TO ONE'S BELIEFS AND RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE FUTURE MAY BE PROMOTED. I ADDRESS A CORDIAL GREETING THAT I ACCOMPANY WITH FERVENT GOOD WISHES

FOR BELOVED ITALY TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO THE ITALIAN PEOPLE.

FRANCIS
