

HOLY SEE PRESS OFFICE  
OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE  
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHLS

# **BOLLETTINO**

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 180922a

Saturday 22.09.2018

**Apostolic Trip of His Holiness Francis to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia (22-25 September 2018) –  
Departure from Rome, Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic and Telegrams to Heads  
of State**

**Departure from Rome**

**Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic**

**Telegrams to Heads of State during the flight from Rome to Vilnius**

## **Departure from Rome**

This morning Pope Francis began his 25th international apostolic trip, this time to Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

The aircraft carrying the Holy Father (an Alitalia A320) took off from Rome-Fiumicino International Airport at 7.40.

He arrived at Vilnius International Airport at 11.20 local time (10.20 in Rome).

## **Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic**

Upon leaving Italian territory destined for the Baltic states, the Holy Father Francis sent the following telegram to the President of the Italian Republic, the Hon. Sergio Mattarella:

HIS EXCELLENCY  
HON. SERGIO MATTARELLA

PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC  
PALAZZO DEL QUIRINALE - 00187 ROME

AS I AM ABOUT TO DEPART FOR THE APOSTOLIC TRIP TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO ADDRESS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, AND TO ALL ITALIANS MY AFFECTIONATE AND AUSPICIOUS GREETING, WHICH I ACCOMPANY WITH THE WARMEST WISHES FOR PEACE AND SERENITY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

### **Telegrams to Heads of State during the flight from Rome to Vilnius**

During the flight from Rome to Vilnius, in flying through Croatian, Hungarian, Slovakian and Polish airspace, the Holy Father sent the following telegrams to the respective Heads of State:

#### ***Overflight Croatia***

HER EXCELLENCY KOLINDA GRABAR-KITAROVIĆ  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA  
ZAGREB

AS I FLY OVER YOUR COUNTRY ON MY PASTORAL VISIT TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA, I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AND YOUR FELLOW CITIZENS. INVOKING DIVINE BLESSINGS UPON THE NATION, I PRAY THAT ALMIGHTY GOD MAY GRANT YOU PEACE AND WELL-BEING.

FRANCISCUS PP.

#### ***Overflight Hungary***

HIS EXCELLENCY JÁNOS ÁDER  
PRESIDENT OF HUNGARY  
BUDAPEST

I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AS I FLY OVER HUNGARY ON MY WAY TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA. I ASSURE YOU OF MY PRAYERS FOR THE NATION AND ITS PEOPLE, INVOKING UPON YOU GOD'S BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

#### ***Overflight Slovakia***

HIS EXCELLENCY ANDREJ KISKA  
PRESIDENT OF THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC  
BRATISLAVA

I OFFER BEST WISHES AND THE ASSURANCE OF MY PRAYERS AS MY JOURNEY TO LITHUANIA,

LATVIA AND ESTONIA TAKES ME OVER THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC. ENTRUSTING YOUR EXCELLENCY AND THE PEOPLE OF SLOVAKIA TO GOD'S PROVIDENTIAL CARE, I WILLINGLY INVOKE UPON ALL OF YOU THE BLESSINGS OF JOY AND PEACE.

FRANCISCUS PP.

*Overflight Poland*

HIS EXCELLENCY ANDRZEJ DUDA  
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND  
WARSAW

I SEND CORDIAL GREETINGS TO YOUR EXCELLENCY AS I FLY OVER POLAND ON MY WAY TO LITHUANIA, LATVIA AND ESTONIA. I ASSURE YOU OF MY PRAYERS FOR THE COUNTRY AND ITS PEOPLE, INVOKING UPON ALL OF YOU ALMIGHTY GOD'S BLESSINGS OF PEACE AND JOY.

FRANCISCUS PP.

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