



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. 241215a

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) – Departure from Rome, Telegram to the President of the Italian Republic and arrival at “Napoléon Bonaparte” Airport in Ajaccio**

**Departure from Rome**

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

**Departure from Rome**

This morning Pope Francis began his 47th International Apostolic Journey, this time to Ajaccio, Corsica, for the conclusion of the Congress *La Religiosité Populaire en Méditerranée*.

Shortly before 7.00, accompanied by Cardinal Konrad Krajewski, Almoner of His Holiness, a group of approximately ten homeless people, women and men, who shelter at night under the colonnade of Saint Peter's Square, greeted Pope Francis at the Casa Santa Marta before his departure for Ajaccio.

After leaving the Casa Santa Marta, the Holy Father Francis transferred by car to *Leonardo da Vinci* Rome-Fiumicino International Airport, from where he departed at 8.06 on board an ITA Airways A230 Neo aircraft bound for Ajaccio.

The aircraft landed at “Napoléon Bonaparte” Airport in Ajaccio at 8.49.

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

As he left Italian territory, 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

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

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