

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

WEEKLY EDITION

IN ENGLISH

Unicuique suum*Non praevalent*

Fifty-sixth year, number 38 (2.815)

Vatican City

Friday, 22 September 2023

POPE FRANCIS VISITS MARSEILLE, FRANCE, FOR THE CONCLUSION OF THE "RENCONTRES MÉDITERRANÉENNES"

To promote peace and welcome

Basilica of Notre
Dame de la Garde

Pope Francis is scheduled to depart for a two-day Apostolic Journey to Marseille to promote peace and welcome, on Friday afternoon, 22 September, leaving from Rome's Fiumicino Airport at 2:35 p.m., and arriving in Marseille at 4:15 p.m.

After an official welcome from France's Prime Minister, the Holy Father will head to Marseille's Basilica of Notre Dame de-la-Garde, where he will pray first with the clergy of the local diocese, and then with a group of professionals from various organisations dedicated to the pastoral care of seafarers, migrants, and refugees, among them, *Stella Maris*, *Caritas Gap-Briançon*, and the *Association de secours en mer*.

The following day, Saturday, 23 September, Pope Francis will participate in the final session of the Mediterranean Meetings, a Church-led initiative aimed at building community amongst the region's various peoples, religions, and cultures. Participants will include bishops and young people from North Africa, the Middle East, and southern Europe. The Pontiff will then meet privately with French President Emmanuel Macron.

After lunch, Pope Francis will travel to Marseille's Vélodrome stadium, where he will celebrate Holy Mass for the general public, before heading to the airport for his departure. He is expected to land in Rome at around 8:50 p.m.

On Tuesday morning, 19 September, the Holy Father visited the Basilica of Saint Mary Major where, as he does before every Apostolic Journey, he paused in prayer before the icon of *Salus Populi Romani* and entrusted his Apostolic Journey to her care.

SEE NEXT WEEK FOR THE POPE'S DISCOURSES IN MARSEILLE.

THIS WEEK

Sisters Project

The Light of Life

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Jewish New Year 5784

The living God who remembers us

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Gospel reflection

Love's Illogical Generosity

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At the General Audience the Holy Father talks about Daniel Comboni Combatting all forms of slavery and colonialism

At the General Audience in Saint Peter's Square on Wednesday, 20 September, Pope Francis turned his thoughts to Africa and the prophetic missionary vision of Saint Daniel Comboni, centred on the liberating power of the Gospel. In a social context marked by the evil of slavery, Daniel Comboni preached Christ, crucified and risen, as the source of authentic freedom, not only from sin but from every form of enslavement that debases our human dignity. Ahead of his time, he recognized the need for

an integral evangelization involving local clergy, catechists and lay leaders, grounded in the Gospel message and its summons to the building of a just, solidary and humane social order. For Saint Daniel Comboni, Christian charity, manifested in our solidarity with those

who suffer, is the ultimate inspiration and driving force behind all missionary outreach. May his love of the Church, his commitment to her universal mission, and his pastoral concern for the future of the peoples of Africa continue to inspire the evangelizing efforts of the Church in our own time.



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