



# The Holy See

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**APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF HIS HOLINESS FRANCIS**  
**TO BUDAPEST, ON THE OCCASION OF THE CONCLUDING HOLY MASS**  
**OF THE 52nd INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS,**  
**AND TO SLOVAKIA**  
[12-15 SEPTEMBER 2021]

***GREETING OF THE HOLY FATHER***  
***TO JOURNALISTS ON THE FLIGHT TO BUDAPEST***

*Papal flight*  
*Sunday, 12 September 2021*

**[[Multimedia](#)]**

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**Bruni**

Good morning, everyone. Good morning Holy Father.

**Pope Francis**

Good morning, everyone.

**Bruni**

I think I share everyone's thoughts in saying that we are happy and grateful to see you. There are seventy-eight journalists and media workers present, eight of us from the countries where we are going, five from Hungary and three from Slovakia. Thank you, Holy Father, for this greeting and for the words you will address to us.

**Pope Francis**

Good morning to you. Thank you for the company. This flight has something of a farewell feel to it, because the Master of Ceremonies is leaving us: it is his last journey, because he has become a bishop. Then we are left with “the dictator on duty” [he turns and smiles at Bishop Datonou]. He is good... he too has been appointed bishop and leaves his role to a Monsignor, George is his name, from India [Msgr. George Jacob Koovakad]: he always smiles, always. He will be “a dictator with a smile”! Alitalia is leaving us... So many leaves, but we are resuming our travels and this is a very important thing, because we are going to bring the word and greetings to so many people.

Thank you for coming, thank you Msgr. Dieudonné, thank you Msgr. George, the “smiling dictator”. Thank you, Msgr. Marini, thank you all, and thank you Alitalia, for bringing us this far. Again today, the senior journalist Valentina [Alazraki] is not here, but there is [Philip] Pullella, I think: there he is, I can see the landing strip [he points to Pullella’s head].

We go forward, always remembering those who are not on the flight because they are our companions. Now I'm going to come by and say hello, in a bit of a hurry because the schedule is tight. Thank you.

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