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OFICINA DE PRENSA DE LA SANTA SEDE



BUREAU DE PRESSE DU SAINT-SIEGE  
PRESSEAMT DES HEILIGEN STUHL

# **BOLLETTINO**

SALA STAMPA DELLA SANTA SEDE

N. 170906a

Wednesday 06.09.2017

## **Apostolic Trip of the Holy Father Francis in Colombia (6-11 September 2017)**

**Departure from Rome**

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

### **Departure from Rome**

Pope Francis' twentieth international Apostolic Trip, to Colombia, commenced this morning.

Prior to leaving Santa Marta, the Holy Father greeted two families whose homes were burned during the most recent summer fires in the area of Ponte Mammolo in Rome, and who are being assisted by the Almoner on behalf of the Pope.

The aircraft carrying the Holy Father (an Alitalia A330) took off from Roma-Fiumicino international airport at 11.10.

It is expected to land at the CATAM airbase of Bogotá airport at 16.30 (23.30 Rome time).

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

At the moment of leaving Italian territory, heading for Colombia, the Holy Father Francis sent to the President of the Italian Republic, Hon. Sergio Mattarella, the following telegram:

TO HIS EXCELLENCY  
HON. SERGIO MATTARELLA

PRESIDENT OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC  
PALAZZO DEL QUIRINALE 00187 ROME

AS I LEAVE ROME FOR COLOMBIA, TO SUPPORT THE MISSION OF THE LOCAL CHURCH AND TO BEAR A MESSAGE OF HOPE, I ADDRESS TO YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, MY RESPECTFUL GREETING, WHICH I ACCOMPANY WITH ARDENT WISHES FOR THE SPIRITUAL, CIVIL AND SOCIAL WELLBEING OF THE BELOVED ITALIAN NATION, TO WHICH I GLADLY IMPART MY APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

FRANCISCUS PP.

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