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◆ **Le Udienze**

Il Santo Padre Francesco ha ricevuto questa mattina in Udienza:

- S.E. Mons. Alessandro D'Errico, Arcivescovo tit. di Carini, Nunzio Apostolico a Malta e in Libia;
- Membri dell'Associazione "Missione Shahbaz Bhatti";
- Bambini ammalati di tumore dalla Clinica di Oncologia di Wroclaw (Polonia).

Il Papa riceve questa mattina in Udienza:

- Centro di Servizio per il Volontariato "Sardegna Solidale";
- Membri della Commissione Teologica Internazionale.

[01927-IT.01]

◆ Messaggio del Santo Padre Francesco a Sua Santità Bartolomeo I, Patriarca ecumenico, per la Festa di Sant'Andrea

Nel quadro del tradizionale scambio di Delegazioni per le rispettive feste dei santi Patroni - il 29 giugno a Roma per la celebrazione dei santi Pietro e Paolo e il 30 novembre a Istanbul per la celebrazione di sant'Andrea - il Cardinale Kurt Koch, Presidente del Pontificio Consiglio per la Promozione dell'Unità dei Cristiani, guida la Delegazione della Santa Sede per la festa del Patriarcato Ecumenico. Il Porporato è accompagnato dal Vescovo Brian Farrell, Segretario del Dicastero, e da Monsignor Andrea Palmieri, Sottosegretario. A Istanbul si è unito alla Delegazione il Nunzio Apostolico in Turchia, l'Arcivescovo Paul F. Russell. La Delegazione della Santa Sede ha preso parte alla solenne Divina Liturgia presieduta da Sua Santità Bartolomeo nella chiesa patriarcale di san Giorgio al Fanar e ha avuto un incontro con il Patriarca e conversazioni con la Commissione sinodale incaricata delle relazioni con la Chiesa cattolica.

Il Cardinale Koch ha consegnato al Patriarca Ecumenico un Messaggio autografo del Santo Padre, di cui ha dato pubblica lettura a conclusione della Divina Liturgia.

Ne riportiamo di seguito il testo:

Messaggio del Santo Padre

To His Holiness Bartholomew
*Archbishop of Constantinople
Ecumenical Patriarch*

It is with particular joy, on the feast of Saint Andrew the Apostle, Patron of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, that I convey my sentiments of deep affection, together with the assurance of my prayers for Your Holiness, beloved brother in Christ, and for the Church entrusted by our Lord to your pastoral care. I also extend cordial greetings to the members of the Holy Synod of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, to the clergy, monks and nuns, and all the faithful gathered in the Patriarchal Church of Saint George for the solemn celebration in honour of Saint Andrew, the first-called and brother of Saint Peter.

The exchange of delegations between the Church of Rome and the Church of Constantinople, on the occasion of their respective feast days, has become a joyful custom over the years and expresses the profound bond that unites our two Sees. While centuries of mutual misunderstanding, differences and silence may seem to have compromised this relationship, the Holy Spirit, Spirit of unity, has enabled us to recommence a fraternal dialogue. This was definitively resumed by our venerable predecessors, Patriarch Athenagoras and Pope Saint Paul VI, and has enabled us to rediscover those bonds of communion that have always existed between us.

Our Churches have safeguarded the Apostolic tradition with great care, along with the teaching of the first Ecumenical Councils and the Church Fathers, despite the differences that developed in local traditions and in theological formulations, which need to be more deeply understood and clarified. At the same time both Churches, with a sense of responsibility towards the world, have sensed that urgent call, which involves each of us who have been baptized, to proclaim the Gospel to all men and women. For this reason, we can work together today in the search for peace among peoples, for the abolition of all forms of slavery, for the respect and dignity of every human being and for the care of creation. With God's help, through encounter and dialogue on our journey together over the last fifty years, we already experience being in communion, even though it is not yet full and complete.

The search for the re-establishment of full communion is above all a response to the will of our Lord Jesus

Christ, who on the eve of his Passion prayed that his disciples “may all be one” (*Jn* 17:21). United we give a more effective response to the needs of so many men and women of our own time, especially those who suffer from poverty, hunger, illness and war. Here I would express my profound gratitude to Your Holiness for your presence at the day of prayer and reflection for peace in the Middle East, held last 7 July in Bari, attended by the Heads of Churches, or their representatives, from that deeply troubled area. It is a source of great comfort to share with Your Holiness the same concerns for the tragic situation of our brothers and sisters in the region.

In a world wounded by conflict, the unity of Christians is a sign of hope that must radiate ever more visibly. With this in mind, I also assure Your Holiness of my prayer that God, fount of reconciliation and peace, may grant us Christians to “be of one mind, sympathetic, loving toward one another” (*1Pt* 3:8). We have been called by God for this, so that we “might inherit a blessing” (*1Pt* 3:9).

Trusting in the intercession of our patrons, Saint Peter and Saint Andrew, I assure you and all the faithful of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of my renewed prayerful best wishes, on behalf of the whole Catholic Church. With sentiments of profound esteem and fraternal affection, trusting also in your own prayers, I exchange with Your Holiness an embrace of peace in Christ our Lord.

FRANCIS

[01933-EN.01] [Testo originale: Inglese]

◆ Comunicato della Sala Stampa della Santa Sede

The Vatican City State/Holy See join the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA)

The Board of the European Payments Council (EPC) approved last week the extension of the geographical scope of the Single Euro Payments Area (SEPA) to Vatican City State and the Holy See.

It is foreseen that as of 1 March 2019, the SEPA schemes are open to the financial institutions of the Vatican City State/Holy See, once they have joined.

SEPA harmonises the way electronic euro payments are made across Europe. It allows European consumers, businesses and public administrations to make and receive credit transfers as well as direct debit under the same basic conditions and makes all cross-border payments in euro as easy as domestic payments.

As of 1 March 2019, the geographical scope of the SEPA schemes will consist of the following 36 countries: the 28 EU Member States plus Iceland, Norway, Liechtenstein, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, the Principality of Andorra and the Vatican City State/Holy See.

“The successful application to SEPA is a very positive sign” said René Bruehlhart, President of AIF (Autorità di Informazione Finanziaria). “It helps to facilitate payments and harmonises such services. Furthermore, it demonstrates the Holy See’s efforts to enhance financial transparency.”

[01934-EN.01] [Original text: English]

◆ Conferenza Stampa di presentazione del Mese missionario straordinario indetto dal Santo Padre Francesco (ottobre 2019)

Alle ore 11.00 di questa mattina, presso la Sala Stampa della Santa Sede, ha avuto luogo la Conferenza Stampa di presentazione del Mese missionario straordinario che si celebrerà nell'ottobre 2019, indetto dal Santo Padre Francesco, **in occasione del centenario della promulgazione della Lettera Apostolica *Maximum illud* di Papa Benedetto XV, con una Lettera inviata al Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli domenica 22 ottobre 2017.**

Sono intervenuti: l'Em.mo Card. Fernando Filoni, Prefetto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli; S.E. Mons. Giampietro Dal Toso, Presidente delle Pontificie Opere Missionarie (POM) e Segretario Aggiunto della Congregazione per l'Evangelizzazione dei Popoli; e P. Fabrizio Meroni, PIME, Segretario Generale della Pontificia Unione Missionaria (PUM), Direttore del CIAM e Direttore dell'Agenzia Fides.

[01906-IT.01]

[B0885-XX.01]
