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# Apostolic Journey to France

Links to Pope Francis' homilies and addresses on his apostolic journey to Marseille, France from 22 to 23 September 2023.

09/22/2023

"Brothers and sisters, let us ask ourselves honestly, from the heart: Do we believe that God is at work in our lives? Do we believe that the Lord, in hidden and often unpredictable ways, acts in history, performs wonders, and is working even in our societies that are marked

by worldly secularism and a certain religious indifference?

"There is a way to discern whether or not we have this trust in the Lord. What is the way? The Gospel says that 'as soon as Elizabeth had heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb' (v. 41). This is the sign: *to leap for joy*. Whoever believes, whoever prays, whoever welcomes the Lord leaps in the Spirit, and feels that something is moving within, and 'dances' with joy. I would like to dwell on this: the leap of faith.

"The experience of faith, first and foremost, elicits a certain *leaping in the face of life*. To leap means to be 'touched inside,' to have an interior quiver, to feel that something is moving in our heart. This is the opposite of a flat, cold heart, accustomed to the quiet life, which is encased in indifference and becomes impermeable. Such a heart becomes

hardened and insensitive to everything and everyone, even to the tragic discarding of human life, which is seen today in the rejection of many immigrants, of countless unborn children and abandoned elderly people. A cold, flat heart drags life along mechanically, without passion, without impetus, without desire. In our European society, a person can become ill from all this and suffer cynicism, disenchantment, resignation, uncertainty, and an overall sadness – all this together: sadness, that sadness hidden in human hearts. Someone has called these dispositions 'sad passions' and are found in those who do not 'leap in the face of life'" (Homily, 23-IX-2023).

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**Friday, 22 September 2023**

## **ROME – MARSEILLE**

Departure by airplane from  
14:35 Rome/Fiumicino International  
Airport to Marseille

16:15 Arrival at Marseille  
International Airport

16:15 **Official Welcome**

**Marian Prayer with the  
Diocesan Clergy** in the  
17:15 Basilica of “Notre Dame de la  
Garde”

**Moment of Reflection with  
Religious Leaders** near the  
18:00 Memorial dedicated to sailors  
and migrants lost at sea

**Saturday, 23 September 2023**

## **MARSEILLE – ROME**

**Private Meeting with People  
experiencing economic  
08:45 hardship** at the House of the  
Missionaries of Charity

**Final Session of the**

10:00 **“Rencontres  
Méditerranéennes”** at the  
“Palais du Pharo”

11:30 **Meeting with the President  
of the Republic** at the Palais  
du Pharo (Official photo,  
exchange of gifts, discussion)

16:15 **Holy Mass** at the “Vélodrome  
Stadium”

18:45 **Farewell ceremony** at  
Marseille International  
Airport

19:15 Departure by airplane from  
Marseille International  
Airport to Rome

20:50 Arrival at Rome/Fiumicino  
International Airport

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france/ (12/15/2025)