

Chapitre du Luxembourg

**Participation of the Luxembourg CAPPF Chapter in the
official visit of His Holiness Pope François to
Luxembourg and Belgium,
26 – 28 September 2024**

Visiting the heart of Europe, two countries that are home to most of the EU institutions, H.H. Pope Francis underlined the great responsibility of Luxembourg and Belgium in a continent marked by war, strong immigration and the presence of many refugees. Described as a ‘bridge’, that brings civilisations into dialogue and an example of how to manage coexistence between different communities, they were called upon to continue their role in favour of peace.

Those countries are, on the one hand, ‘the seat of various European institutions, particularly of a financial nature’ (Luxembourg); on the other, ‘the seat of a large part of the EU administration’ (Belgium). It is therefore in ‘a part of the world to which others turn’ that Pope Francis has made his visit, and his words have been intended to be ‘a word addressed to the heart of Europe’ and ‘on the role (that the Old Continent) wants to play in the world in the near future’ in terms of hospitality and solidarity between nations.

Luxembourg

At the invitation of His Royal Highness the Grand Duke, Pope Francis has paid an official visit to Luxembourg on 26 September 2024.

11 am

Meeting between Their Royal Highnesses the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess and His Holiness Pope François at the Grand Ducal Palace.



H. H. Pope Francis signs the Golden Book of the City of Luxembourg in the presence of HRH the Grand-Duke of Luxembourg and Mrs Lydie Polfer, Mayor of Luxembourg.

12 am

His Holiness Pope Francis met national authorities and civil society at Cercle Cité.

On this occasion, the Luxembourg Prime Minister Luc Frieden presented an address:

” What characterises our democracy and our society is freedom of conscience, the freedom to manifest - or not to manifest - one's philosophical or religious convictions, but also the freedom not to have a religion imposed on you.”

(..) Religions “are part of society and must, with mutual respect, contribute to enriching our debates on ethical, societal and environmental issues. A society cannot survive without values and principles.”



Pope Francis responds to the speech by Mr Luc Frieden, Prime Minister of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg.

In his response, Pope Francis recalled the two major themes of his pontificate, the safeguarding of creation and fraternity.

Pope Francis has made his own the words spoken by Saint John Paul II during his visit to Luxembourg in 1985: ‘Your country remains faithful to its vocation to be, at this important crossroads of civilisations, a place of intense exchange and cooperation between a growing number of countries. I ardently hope that this desire for solidarity will unite national communities ever more widely and extend to all the nations of the world, especially the most disadvantaged’. (Speech at the Welcome Ceremony, 15 May 1985).

Pope Francis added : “Wealth - let's not forget - is a responsibility (...) We need to look upwards, we need that the daily lives of the people and of their rulers be animated by high and deep spiritual values, which prevent the folly of reason and the irresponsible return to the same mistakes of the past, aggravated, moreover, by the greater technical power available to human beings today.”

4.30 pm

Meeting with the Catholic community at Notre-Dame de Luxembourg Cathedral.

The meeting started with an offering of the arts to the Holy Father on the theme of the ‘common Home’ of which we are the guardians, and not the despots.

Here too, Pope Francis recalled the words of John Paul II in 1985, encouraging young people to contribute to ‘a Europe not only of goods and commodities, but of values, people and hearts’.



Offering of the arts to the Holy Father.



In the cathedral with Martine Reicherts, President of the European Movement Luxembourg.

In his address, the Holy Father commented on three words: **service, mission and joy**, and concluded in inviting people of faith to smile and be cheerful: ‘Our faith is like this: it is joyful, “dancing”, because it tells us that **we are the children of a God** who is a friend of mankind, who wants us to be happy and united, and who can only be delighted by our salvation’.



Address by the Holy Father at the Cathedral of Luxembourg.

Later, a Golden Rose bestowed by Pope Francis was placed on a table in front of Virgin Mary, Consoler of the Afflicted by Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich, member of the C9, General Relator of the Synod and Ecclesiastical Assistant of the Luxembourg Chapter of the CAPPF.



In his press conference after his visit, Pope Francis has underlined the qualities of welcome, moderation of laws and balance in Luxembourg society, which he said was a message that Luxembourg should spread throughout Europe.

Belgium

Then the Holy Father went to Belgium for an official visit on the occasion of the 600th anniversary of the Catholic University of Louvain, which has been split in two since 1968: the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven) and the Catholic University of Louvain in Louvain-la-Neuve.

A bridge is indispensable 'for building peace and repudiating war' said Pope Francis. What is needed, is 'constant and timely cultural, social and political action, courageous and at the same time prudent, which rules out a future in which the idea and practice of war would once again become a possible option, with catastrophic consequences'.



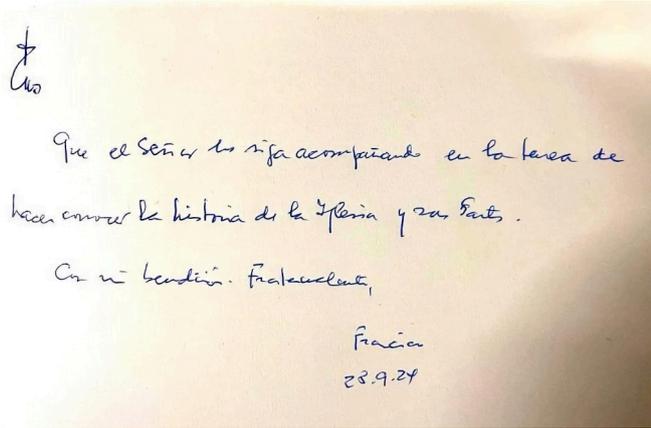
Pope Francis at the Société des Bollandistes. Behind His Holiness : Mgr Franco Coppola, Apostolic Nunzio for Belgium and Luxembourg. On the far right: Ms Irini de Saint Sernin, Director of Philanthropy of the Société des Bollandistes.

28 September 2024

The Holy Father visited several places in the presence of Mgr. Franco Coppola, including the Société des Bollandistes, the only research center and library dedicated to the biography of saints, where our member, Mrs Irini de Saint Sernin, is Director of Philanthropy.



Pope Francis greeting Mrs Irini de Saint Sernin at the entrance to the library.



Words from the Holy Father in the guest book.

In that same place, on 11 April 2023, at the initiative of our member Irini, the Luxembourg CAPPF Chapter had a meeting with Mgr. Franco Coppola, Apostolic Nunzio for Belgium and Luxembourg. This visit was for the Luxembourg Chapter Members an opportunity to reflect on how they might respond to "the call to holiness, in all the diversity of the faces of humanity".



At the Société des Bollandistes, 11 April 2023.

The Luxembourg Chapter of the Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation feels honoured and delighted to have participated in the historic visit of His Holiness Pope Francis to Luxembourg and Belgium. Those events will remain a source of reflection and inspiration for its members in their commitment to actively discern God's will for our time and contribute to its fulfilment.

WITH GRATITUDE,

On behalf of the CAPPF Luxembourg Chapter

Christophe Déage,
Coordinator
1st October 2024

