

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO PANAMA ON THE OCCASION OF THE 34th WORLD YOUTH DAY
MEETING WITH CENTRAL AMERICAN BISHOPS (SEDAC)

ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS

Church of San Francisco de Asis (Panama)

Thursday, 24 January 2019

[Link](#)

After the Angelus

[...] There are many young people who have unfortunately been seduced by immediate answers that mortgage life. And many others who have been given an illusion of short breath in some movements, and who then make them either pelagian or convinced they are enough for themselves, and then abandon them halfway. The Synod Fathers told us: through constraint or lack of alternatives, young people find themselves immersed in highly conflictual situations and without a rapid solution: domestic violence, femicide - what a plague our continent is experiencing in this! - armed and criminal gangs, drug trafficking, sexual exploitation of minors and no longer minors, and so on; and it hurts to see that, at the base of many of these situations, there are experiences of orphanhood, the fruit of a culture and a society that has "gone mad" [if fue "desmadrando"] - without a mother, has made them orphans. Families very often worn down by an economic system that does not put people and the common good first and that has made speculation its "paradise" where continuing to gain weight does not matter at whose expense. And so our young people without the warmth of a home, without family, without community, without belonging, are left at the mercy of the first swindler. [...]

[...] Many of the migrants have young faces, they are looking for something better for their families, they are not afraid to risk and leave everything to offer the minimum conditions that guarantee a better future. Not only the complaint is sufficient on this, but we must also concretely announce a "good news". The Church, thanks to its universality, can offer that fraternal and welcoming hospitality so that the communities of origin and those of arrival dialogue and contribute to overcoming fears and mistrusts and reinforcing the bonds that migration, in the collective imagination, threaten to break. "Welcoming, protecting, promoting and integrating" the people can be the four verbs with which the Church, in this migratory situation, combines her motherhood in today's history (see Synod on Youth, Final Document, 147). The Vicar General of Paris, Msgr. Benoist de Siny, has just published a book with the subtitle: "Welcoming migrants, an appeal to courage" (see *Il faut que des voix s'élèvent. Accueil des migrants, un appel au courage*, Paris 2018). This book is a joy. He is here at the Day.

All the efforts you can make by building bridges between ecclesial, parish, and diocesan communities, as well as through the Bishops' Conferences, will be a prophetic gesture of the Church which in Christ is "a sign and instrument of the intimate union with God and the unity of the whole gender human "(Dogmatic Constitution Lumen Gentium, 1). And so the temptation to limit oneself to a mere denunciation vanishes and the announcement of the new Life that the Lord gives us takes place. [...]