

**MEETING OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS
WITH THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE OF THE DIOCESE OF
ROME**

Basilica of San Giovanni in Laterano
Thursday, 9 May 2019

[Link](#)

Pope Francis:

The second trait needed - the first is humility: to listen, you must lower yourself - the second trait needed to hear the cry is disinterest. It is expressed in the Gospel passage of the parable of the shepherd who goes in search of the lost sheep. He has no personal interest to defend, this good shepherd: the only concern is that nobody gets lost. We have personal interests, who are we this evening? Everyone can think of us: what is my hidden, personal interest that I have in my ecclesial activity? Vanity? I don't know ... everyone has their own. Are we concerned about our parish structures ?, about the future of our institute ?, about the social consensus ?, about what people will say if we take care of the poor, migrants, Roma? Or are we attached to that little bit of power that we still exercise over the people of our community or our neighborhood? We have all seen parishes that have made serious choices, under the inspiration of the Spirit, and many faithful who went there have moved away because "ah, this parish priest is too demanding, even a little communist", and people it goes.

Today I met five hundred Roma at the Vatican and I heard painful things. Xenophobia. Be careful, because the world cultural phenomenon, let's say at least European, of populism grows sowing fear. But in the city there is also so much good, because there are positive places, fruitful places: there where the citizens meet and dialogue in a solidarity and constructive way, here we create «a connective tissue where people and groups share different ways of dreaming life, similar imaginaries, and new human sectors are formed, invisible cultural territories "(ibid.).