

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO ROMANIA
[31 MAY - 2 JUNE 2019]
**MEETING WITH THE AUTHORITIES, WITH CIVIL SOCIETY AND WITH THE
DIPLOMATIC CORPS**
ADDRESS OF HIS HOLINESS
Unirii Hall of the Cotroceni Palace (Bucarest)
Friday, 31 May 2019

[Link](#)

[...]

At the same time, it must be acknowledged that while the changes brought by the dawn of this new era have led to genuine achievements, they have also entailed inevitable hurdles to be overcome and problematic consequences for social stability and the governance of the territory itself. I think in the first place of the phenomenon of emigration and the several million people who have had to leave their homes and country in order to seek new opportunities for employment and a dignified existence. I think too of the depopulation of many villages, which have lost many of their inhabitants, the effects of this on the quality of life in those areas, and the weakening of the profound cultural and spiritual roots that have sustained you in difficult times, in times of trial. At the same time, I pay homage to the sacrifices endured by so many sons and daughters of Romania who, by their culture, their distinctive identity and their industriousness, have enriched those countries to which they have emigrated, and by the fruit of their hard work have helped their families who have remained at home. To think of our brothers and sisters abroad is an act of patriotism, an act of fraternity, an act of justice. Continue to do so. [...]