

**MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS  
FOR THE 150<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF ROME  
AS CAPITAL OF ITALY**

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 3 February 2020

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[...] There is a demand for inclusion written in the lives of the poor and those who, as immigrants and refugees, see Rome as a port of salvation. Often their eyes, incredibly, see the city with more expectation and hope than we Romans who, because of the many daily problems we face, look at it in a pessimistic way, as if it were destined to decline. No, Rome is a great resource of humanity! "Rome is a city of unique beauty" (*Celebration of First Vespers of Mary, Mother of God, 31 December 2013: Insegnamenti I, 2 [2013], 804*). Rome can and must renew itself in the twofold sense of openness to the world and the inclusion of all. The Jubilees also stimulate this, and that of 2025 is no longer far away. [...]