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APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF POPE LEO XIV
TO ALGERIA, CAMEROON, ANGOLA AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA
(13-23 APRIL 2026)

**GREETING OF THE HOLY FATHER TO JOURNALISTS
DURING THE FLIGHT TO ALGIERS**

Papal Flight
Monday, 13 April 2026
[Multimedia]

Good morning, good morning everyone!

Welcome aboard! I am happy to greet you all this morning.

Let me say a few words at the outset. This journey, which is very special for several reasons, was supposed to be the first of my pontificate. As early as last May, I had said that on my first journey, I would like to visit Africa. Several people immediately suggested Algeria because of Saint Augustine, as you know. I am indeed very happy to visit once again the land of Saint Augustine. He represents a very important bridge in interreligious dialogue, and he is deeply loved in his homeland, as we will see. Having the opportunity to visit the places associated with the life of Saint Augustine, where he was bishop in the city of Hippo, now known as Annaba, is truly a blessing for me personally. I believe it is also a blessing for the Church and for the world, because we must always seek bridges to build peace and reconciliation. This journey, then, truly represents a valuable opportunity to continue with the same voice, with the same message, that we wish to convey: to promote peace, reconciliation, respect and consideration for all peoples. Therefore, welcome to all of you. I am happy to greet you! Have a safe journey, and thank you for the service you offer. Thank you!

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The **HOLY SEE**

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