



The Holy See

***VIDEO MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
ON THE OCCASION OF HIS UPCOMING
APOSTOLIC JOURNEY TO NORTH MACEDONIA***

[7 May 2019]

[Multimedia]

Dear Brothers and Sisters of North Macedonia!

Through this brief message I would like to express to you my joy and the feelings of affection I feel for your people and for the Church in your land. After your country gained independence, the Holy See sought to establish friendly and diplomatic relations with it. Today more than ever there is a need to promote in Europe and throughout the world the culture of encounter and of fraternity, and I will come among you to sow these seeds, sure in the knowledge that yours is good soil, and that it will be able to welcome them and bear fruit. The particular beauty of your country comes from the variety of cultures and ethnic and religious affiliations that inhabit it. Living together is not always easy; we know that. But it's worth struggling toward because the most beautiful mosaics are the ones that are richest in colors.

I entrust my visit to the intercession of a great saint, a daughter of your land: Mother Teresa. Born and raised in Skopje, through the grace of God she became a courageous missionary of Christ's charity in the world, giving comfort and dignity to the poorest of the poor.

Dear friends, let us prepare our meeting through prayer, so that it may bear fruits of peace and all things good for all your people. God bless you!