



Vatican City, Aug. 21, 2023. Chile and Argentina are the two destinations of the trip that will see Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, in Latin America - Aug. 23-31.

Archbishop Paglia will speak at the FAO headquarters for Latin America in Santiago, Chile on August 24 in the afternoon (3 to 5 p.m. local time, 9 to 11 p.m. Rome time), on the topic «Prevent and reduce food losses and waste in the context of Food and Nutrition Security. An intersectoral challenge». Joining Archbishop Paglia at the meeting will be Chilean Minister of Agriculture Dr. Esteban Valenzuela and FAO Chief Economist Dr. Máximo Torero. On the afternoon of the 25th in the University of Concepcion Archbishop Paglia will address the topic of Palliative Care, one of the areas of commitment of the Pontifical Academy for Life. For the occasion, the Spanish translation of the White Paper for the Promotion of Palliative Care in the World, prepared by the Pontifical Academy for Life (with a working group composed of leading international experts in the field) and published in 2019, will be presented. The following day, the President of the Pontifical Academy for Life will meet with archdiocesan health workers in the morning on the topic of end-of-life and vulnerability.

The Archbishop of Concepcion is Fernando Chomali, Ordinary Academician of the Pontifical Academy for Life.

In Buenos Aires, from August 26 afternoon to August 30, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia will have the following appointments. On the 28th he will visit the Portena Legislature (Monday 28 on the themes of the protection of the elderly and the importance of Palliative Care, 11 a.m. local time, 4 p.m. in Italy); he will meet with moral theologians at the headquarters of the National Caritas (28 afternoon); and he will give a lecture on the themes of the elderly and Palliative Care (August 28 at 5 p.m. local time - 10 p.m. in Italy) at the Catholic University as part of the celebrations for the 60th anniversary since its foundation.

On Tuesday 29 in the morning Archbishop Paglia will visit the *Familia Grande del Hogar de Cristo*, an organization that works to meet the needs of vulnerable people; he will meet with a group of senators to address issues related to the needs of the elderly (from 11 a.m. local time-4 p.m. in Italy) and the day will end at the University of El Salvador.

On Wednesday, 30, before departing to return to Italy, Archbishop Paglia will address the National Academy of Medicine with a prerecorded video.

«This trip - explained Archbishop Paglia - puts the issues of social vulnerability at the center: the commitment to the fight against world hunger in Santiago, Chile, is meant to underscore the collaboration between the Pontifical Academy for Life and the FAO. As a great bishop, Msgr. Pedro Casaldaliga, once said, two issues are indisputable: the presence of God and the reality of world hunger. Peace, as we see dramatically with the war in Ukraine and the grain trade, is linked to an equitable distribution of food and the fight against food waste. One of the greatest injustices is living on a planet that has resources to feed us all and continuing to see millions of human beings die of hunger. In the efforts of the Pontifical Academy for Life, the protection of the vulnerable finds an ever-increasing place: the elderly on the one hand, and on the other hand, the commitment to counter the 'discard' mentality that wants to make euthanasia practice seem like a form of mercy toward the sick. With Palliative Care, medicine - and the Church - wants to give a humane response to the needs of sick people. This commitment is also part of the Gospel of Life and it is my task to proclaim it».

Father Máximo Jurcinovic, director of the Office of Communication of the Argentine Episcopal Conference, has expressed himself on the significance of this visit: «The Argentine Episcopal Conference is celebrating the visit of Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Academy of Life. We have learned of the varied and fruitful agenda that the Archbishop will have during his visit to our country. It will undoubtedly be a time of mutual enrichment and dialogue with the different realities and cultures with which he will come into contact. We wish a fruitful stay to the president of this important Vatican Academy».

On the importance of Archbishop Paglia's visit, Rabbi Fishel Szlajen, Academician, who collaborated in the preparation of the Argentine trip, notes that «the objective of these days is to raise awareness about the protection and promotion of the elderly, who are isolated, infantilized, vulnerable and invisible, and need a series of policies to improve their quality of life. The events in which Archbishop Paglia will participate will serve to raise awareness of the socio-demographic change brought about by longer life expectancy and the coexistence of four generations, re-evaluating intergenerationality and the cultural, anthropological and economic challenge it poses to society as a whole. According to WHO, one in five people will be elderly by 2050, requiring greater inclusion through social policies with effective proactive and adaptive labor measures, social protection, and quality and universal health coverage for those who have been excluded from public assistance. Ways to measure the progress of civilization (wealth, productivity, scientific and technological development, cultural level) need to be complemented with good attitude and care toward the most disadvantaged groups of society -- for this is where the moral strength of a society is tested. Therefore, the relevance of Archbishop Paglia's visit is to focus on the issues of social cohesion and the responsibility we have toward others».

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