

**Église catholique
d'Algérie
كنيسة الجزائر الكاثوليكية**

**13 rue Khelifa Boukhalfa
شارع خليفة بوخالفة 13
16000 Alger 16000 الجزائر
evechealger@yahoo.fr +213 (0) 20 05 06 22**

Following Pope Leo XIV's visit to Algeria Letter from the bishops and vicars general to our Church

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our hearts are still burning with the memory of that moment of communion, pride, and joy shared not only within the Church but also with a large part of the Algerian people during the preparation and unfolding of the Holy Father's visit on April 13, 14, and 15. We know how much the success of this visit depended on the attitude and commitment not only of the members of the Church but also on the goodwill and mobilization of many other friends and the country's governing authorities. We extend our warmest thanks to all.

Several weeks after this outpouring of blessings, our joy remains, and even after the visit, we continue to receive signs of communion, such as the enthusiastic reactions of people, whether known to us or not, who speak to us about this event.

But beyond the emotion of the event itself, we must perhaps also return to the Pope's own words in the various places where he addressed the Church, the Algerian people, and the world. Indeed, through live broadcasts on Algerian television and social media, millions of people shared in his visit. For our part, it is up to us to delve deeper into his message, to nurture the spirit and impetus he wished to give us.

Here, we have selected some of his words to nourish us. You will surely remember others as well and share with us how they inspire you.

Three aspects of Christian life that I consider to be essential — particularly in light of your presence here: *prayer, charity and unity.*

Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, April 13, 2026

Are these three pillars of our individual and collective Christian lives? Why do they seem so important to Pope Leo XIV?

Faith does not isolate, but opens us up; it unites us, but does not create confusion; it brings us closer, without homogenizing, and fosters true fraternity.

Basilica of Our Lady of Africa, April 13, 2026

How does my Christian faith bring this about in my relationships with my Muslim brothers and sisters, to the point that it is good news for us all?

Dearest Christians of Algeria, remain a humble and faithful sign of Christ's love in this land. Bear witness to the Gospel through simple gestures, genuine relationships and a dialogue lived out day by day (...) Your presence in this country is like incense: a glowing grain that spreads fragrance because it gives glory to the Lord and joy and comfort to so many brothers and sisters.

Saint Augustine Basilica, April 14, 2026

Does this image reflect what I feel to be my mission and that of the Church in Algeria? Do other images come to my mind?

Jesus' invitation gives rise to the mission of the whole Church, and consequently to the Christian community in Algeria: to be born again from above, that is, from God. (...) We should do so, then, according to his loving will, which desires to renew humanity by calling us to a communion of life that begins with faith. While Christ invites us to renew our lives completely, he also gives us the strength to do so.

Basilica of Saint Augustine, April 14, 2026

How do I feel this force of renewal at work within me?

Here the martyrs prayed; here Saint Augustine loved his flock, fervently seeking the truth and serving Christ with ardent faith. Be heirs to this tradition, bearing witness through fraternal charity to the freedom of those born from above as a hope of salvation for the world.

Basilica of Saint Augustine, April 14, 2026

How does the witness of the Christians who have preceded me on this land of Algeria inspire my path? From what fears, habits, or forms of confinement does the Gospel liberate us today, and how can this freedom become a hope for the world?

Every people possesses a unique patrimony of history, culture and faith. Algeria, too, is blessed with this richness, which has sustained it through difficult times and continues to guide it into the future.

Monument to the Martyr, Maqam Echahid, April 13, 2026

What new understanding of Algeria's history do this visit, the Pope's gestures, and his words open up for me? How can our Church recognize, honour, and serve the riches of history, culture, and faith present in our country?

God desires peace for all nations: a peace that is not merely the absence of conflict, but the expression of justice and dignity. And this peace, which allows us to envision the future with a reconciled spirit, is only possible through forgiveness.

Monument to the Martyr, Maqam Echahid, April 13, 2026

How do we hear this call, for ourselves and for those around us?

Everyone is, of course, invited to read the full texts of the Holy Father's addresses both in Algiers and Annaba. These have been published in our diocesan bulletins and will be compiled into a commemorative album. But the seven excerpts above already allow us to reflect upon and inspire our individual lives and the life of our Church.

A blessed summer to you all, in the spirit of Pentecost and this apostolic visit. The Holy Father came to help us take a step forward. What step have we taken, or are we determined to take?

Jean-Paul Vesco, Cardinal Archbishop of Algiers, and Fr. Constant Koffi

Davide Carraro, Bishop of Oran, and Fr. Jean Toussaint

Diego Sarrió Cucarella, Bishop of Laghouat-Ghardaïa, and Fr. Vincent Kyererezi

Michel Guillaud, Bishop of Constantine and Hippone, and Fr. Christophe Ravanel

Wednesday, June 3, 2026, on the Feast of the Holy Martyrs of Uganda