



XIII International Pilgrimage of Altar Servers to Rome in July/August 2024

Accreditation for press conferences and Papal Audience

The International Pilgrimage of Altar Servers to Rome of Coetus Internationalis Ministrantium (CIM) will be taking place from 29 July to 3 August 2024. Approximately 50,000 altar servers are expected to attend, accompanied by the President of CIM, Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich SJ (Archbishop of Luxembourg). Currently, the following countries are officially registered: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Switzerland and Ukraine. The approximately 35,000 altar servers from Germany are accompanied by the President of the Commission for Youth Ministry of the German Bishops' Conference, Auxiliary Bishop Johannes Wübbe (Osnabrück), as well as by numerous members of the German Bishops' Conference. This year's International Pilgrimage of Altar Servers is dedicated to the motto "with you" (*Isa 41:10*).

The Press Office of the German Bishops' Conference will be coordinating the media work for this pilgrimage, in agreement with CIM. We cordially invite all media to cover the pilgrimage to Rome. To be accredited for the events scheduled for the International Pilgrimage of Altar Servers, journalists must contact the Press Office of the German Episcopal Conference and the Holy See Press Office. Accreditation may be requested exclusively through the link press.vatican.va/accreditamenti, by 12:00 on 28 July 2024. With the accreditation badges issued by the Holy See Press Office in collaboration with the Press Office of the German Episcopal Conference, it will be possible to attend the press conferences of the German Episcopal Conference and the audience with the Holy Father. It will also be possible to send requests for participation in other events planned within the Vatican territory and in the Papal Basilicas (Basilica of Saint Peter, Saint John Lateran, Saint Mary Major, Saint Paul Outside the Walls) by sending a request to accreditamenti@salastampa.va within 48 hours of the event. Accreditation badges can be collected on Monday, 29 July 2024, and Tuesday, 30 July 2024, from 11:00.

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The following press events are currently planned:

Opening Press Conference at 2.00 p.m. on Monday, 29 July 2024, in Istituto Maria Ss. Bambina (Hall "John Paul II", Via Paolo VI 21, 00193 Rome)

The following interlocutors will be available to answer your questions during the opening press conference:

- Cardinal Jean-Claude Hollerich SJ (Archbishop of Luxembourg), President of CIM
- Auxiliary Bishop Johannes Wübbe (Osnabrück), President of the Commission for Youth Ministry of the German Bishops' Conference
- Tobias Knell, Secretary-General of CIM
- Three altar servers (German and international)

The press conference will be held in German; simultaneous interpretation into English and Italian will be provided. Technical equipment for translation will be available on site

Papal Audience at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday, 30 July 2024, on St Peter's Square in Rome (the Audience times are subject to minor variations):

- The preliminary program will start at 16:00.
- As for the Audience with the Holy Father, all accredited journalists and media operators can follow the event from the terrace of the Braccio di Carlo Magno, from 3 p.m., accessing from the bottom of the left colonnade, on the side of St Peter's Basilica (security checks will take place at the entrance of the "Petriano – Santo Uffizio").
- All accredited journalists and media representatives will be able to work in St. Peter's Square until 45 minutes before the Pope's arrival. Everyone attending will then be invited to take their seats on the terrace of the "Braccio Carlo Magno".
- During the evening event it will be possible to shoot videos and photographs (no interviews or stand-ups) from the Terrace of the "Braccio di Carlo Magno".
- No live filming or broadcasting will be permitted anywhere in St. Peter's Square.
- Journalists and media representatives are reminded that appropriate dress is required at all events (dark suit for men, equivalent for women, covering shoulders and knees).
- The Papal Audience will be broadcast live streaming from the Vatican Media at www.vaticannews.va from 6:00 p.m.

Closing Press Conference at 11.00 a.m. on Thursday, 1 August 2024, in Istituto Maria Ss. Bambina (Hall "John Paul II", Via Paolo VI 21, 00193 Rome)

The closing press conference of the Pilgrimage will be attended by the same speakers present at the initial conference. Technical equipment for translation will be available on site.

Notes:

- More information and tips for accredited media representatives will follow after registration, roughly one week prior to the pilgrimage.

- With the temporary accreditation badges issued by the Holy See Press Office, journalists will be able to use, during the usual opening hours, the workstations provided at the Temporary Holy See Press Office (via dell'Ospedale,1).
- During the International Pilgrimage of Altar Servers (press conferences, papal audience, etc.) an official photographer of the organization will cover the event. The photographs will be made available free of charge, in high resolution and available at the online archive of the German Bishops' Conference. You will then be forwarded a link with further information and guidance.
- Detailed information on the pilgrimage, the programme structure, the number of pilgrims, the motto, and the pilgrim badges, are available at www.dbk.de on the topical page [Internationale Ministrantenwallfahrt 2024 nach Rom](#).
- Further information will be available at ministranten.de/romwallfahrt-2024.

Daniela Elpers, deputy press spokesperson of the German Bishops' Conference, is your contact for any information and questions you may have regarding the Pilgrimage of Altar Servers (pressestelle@dbk.de).

The German Bishops' Conference is an association of the Roman-Catholic bishops of all dioceses in Germany. It currently has 62 members (as per: July 2024) from the 27 German dioceses. The German Bishops' Conference was established to promote joint pastoral tasks, to advise one another, to coordinate the Church's work, to jointly adopt decisions and to maintain contact with other Bishops' Conferences. The highest body of the German Bishops' Conference is the Plenary Assembly of all bishops, at which the bishops regularly meet in spring and autumn for several days.