

US Papal Visit 2015
Pool Report: Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility
Sunday, September 27

The meeting with the prisoners was held in the basketball court with a high ceiling and painted cinderblock walls within the Curran-Fromhold facility.

The prisoners were led in prior to the Holy Father's arrival and sat quietly, well-behaved, waiting for him to enter. They looked around the room curiously.

The Holy Father entered from behind a blue curtain and climbed up onto a small stage in the front of the room. He sat on a wooden chair that was made by some of the inmates and the staff of the facility. The chair had a high back with the Coat of Arms of Pope Francis carved in it. It had cream-colored cushions.

In his native language of Spanish, with consecutive translation, Pope Francis spoke to the prisoners about getting their lives back on the right road and creating new opportunities for inmates and their families. See Text. Several of the prisoners were visibly moved by the Holy Father's remarks

Following his speech, Pope Francis came off the stage to move between all of the rows to speak with every one of the inmates. There was a row of women in the front, and then three or four rows of men in the back. The prisoners wore navy slacks and lighter blue shirts and they were each wearing a white wristband with a green marking on it. There were no handcuffs or ankle cuffs. The prisoners sat in blue plastic chairs that were tie wrapped to one another. They were primarily Caucasian or Hispanic with a few African-Americans in the mix.

The Holy Father stopped before leaving to bless the rosaries and icons that the prisoners had brought with them. According to his translator, there had been several requests for this while he was speaking to the inmates.

Afterward, the press were permitted to interview the prisoners, family members and prison officials.

See photo below:



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