

Pool Report: Morning at the Nunciature
September 24, 2015

We waited and waited as a group of about 100 faithful sang and played drums and guitars about a block away. They sang in Spanish "Alleluia" and "Viva el Papa." They switched to singing in English on occasion.

About a dozen media representatives stood or sat while waiting on and near a riser for view of the driveway of the Nunciature.

The children, students from Catholic schools, stood behind a barricade. One child was wearing a Native American headdress.

The road closest to the Nunciature was closed but on the other side of the concrete half wall a few cars zipped by.

The anticipation was building. On occasion the door of the residence would open and the children would begin to squeal. But it was actually a member of the US Secret Service or other related staff or clergy coming out of the door.

There was a slight chill in the air and wispy clouds masked the early sun that tried to peek out.

About 100 students chanted, "We love Francis, yes we do! We love Francis, how about you?" The groups of children alternated chanting.

The banners that draped the barricade said, "Share the Joy, Walk with Francis"

Pope Francis finally stepped outside with a careful gait and with a gentle smile on his face. The children squealed with delight and the cameras began snapping constantly.

One child about age 10 smiled broadly and yelled "I got a selfie!"

Pope Francis embraced an older man as if he recognized him.

The Pope chatted with the children and did not seem rushed at all. He looked at each person he could which showed everyone present what the "culture of encounter" looks like.

He walked across the driveway to greet the people along the barricades positioned across the entrance of the Nunciature.

Then he entered his now famous Fiat car. The window of the car was rolled down and he waved out his window as the motorcade drove away.

The children and chaperones were clearly overjoyed at this once in a lifetime opportunity.

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