

March 4th, 2021

Pope Francis' Apostolic Journey to Iraq, from March 5-8, is very important for two reasons. First, he will attempt to energize the tiny Eastern Churches still clinging to life in the Middle East. As many popes have said, the Church breathes with two lungs, our Western, Latin Church (and the Protestant Churches) and the Eastern Churches. His visit will help the Eastern lung become healthier, so that the entire Christian Church becomes more united and able to evangelize.

Secondly, he goes to create stronger bonds with the moderate Muslims in Iraq. For about 20 years, our popes has been attempting to meet with the Grand Ayatollah of Iraq, who is much more interested in dialogue than the Grand Ayatollah of Iran, where we had our hostage situation during President Carter's administration. On Saturday;, Pope Francis will meet with Grand Ayatollah of Iraq.

Attached [here](#) is an interesting article explaining this. May our Lenten First Friday of March remind us of the love of the Sacred Heart for all peoples. Let us pray for Pope Francis and all those in the Middle East.

Special thanks to all those who replied to the February 26 e-letter.

In His love,

Fr. Harry Winter, O. M. I.