

Vatican Delegates Attend Exposition of the Sacred Relics of SFX

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A distinguished delegation from the Vatican attended the decennial Exposition (2024) of the Sacred Relics of St. Francis Xavier in Old Goa, one of the most significant spiritual events in the region. The visit marks a momentous occasion in honoring the rich history and heritage of Goa.

Upon their arrival, Shri Shreyas D'silva, Under Secretary ,GAD, extended a warm welcome to the Vatican delegates. Shri Sandip Jacques, IAS, Secretary, Revenue and Commisioner -I, had meaningful conversations with the delegates, welcoming them to the Exposition (2024) of the Sacred Relics.

His Excellency Archbishop Edgar Peña Parra, Substitute of the Secretariat of State, conveyed his happiness in attending the event. In his address, he shared a message of love, emphasizing that to love God is to love others, and underscored the importance of doing one's best for others. "This brings us here to Goa for the Exposition," he said, adding that the heritage of St. Francis Xavier is priceless.

His Excellency Bishop George Koovakad, Cardinal-Elect, Coordinator of the Apostolic Journeys, also expressed his gratitude, describing the moment as profoundly sacred.

The visiting Vatican delegation included Monsignor Javier Domingo Fernández González, Chief of Protocol of the Holy See, who previously served as the Counsellor at the Vatican Embassy in New Delhi; His Excellency Archbishop Rolandas Makrickas, Coadjutor Archbishop of the Saint Mary Major Basilica in Rome; His Excellency Bishop Flaviano Rami Al-Kabalan, Apostolic Visitor for the Syrian Catholic Faithful residing in Europe and Procurator of the Syrian Catholic Church in Rome; Dr. Melania Iermieri, Assistant for the Apostolic Journeys.

The Vatican delegates took time to visit the museum and attend Mass. They will participate in several other events during their stay, furthering their engagement with the cultural and spiritual significance of the Exposition.

The ceremony was also attended by Auxiliary Bishop H. Simiao Purificacao Fernandes, Fr. Lawrance Fernandes, and other distinguished officials.

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