



## **ANTILLES EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE**

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### **Press Release: Ad Limina Visit - Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference April 27 – May 3, 2026**

#### **31st March, 2026**

The Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference (AEC) will undertake their **Ad Limina Apostolorum visit to Rome from 27 April to 3 May 2026**, a significant occasion in the life of the Church that strengthens communion between the local Antillean Churches and the Holy See.

The term *Ad Limina Apostolorum* means “to the thresholds of the Apostles,” referring to the tombs of **Saint Peter and Saint Paul** in Rome. This visit, which normally occurs approximately every five years, is a pastoral pilgrimage where diocesan bishops meet with the Holy Father and various departments of the Vatican to reflect on the life and mission of the Church.

During the visit, the Bishops will present **quinquennial reports** from their respective dioceses. These reports offer a comprehensive overview of the pastoral, spiritual, and social realities of the Church in the region over the past five years. They include reflections on the life of parishes and communities, the work of clergy and religious, the role of the laity, and the Church's engagement with the wider society.

During their time in Rome, the bishops will be meeting with several **Dicasteries of the Roman Curia**; the Vatican offices that assist the Holy Father in governing and pastoral mission to the universal Church. These meetings offer an opportunity for dialogue and collaboration, enabling the bishops to share both the blessings and challenges faced in the Antillean Region.

A key moment of the visit will be the bishops' **meeting with His Holiness Pope Leo XIV**. This encounter demonstrates the strong communion between the bishops and the successor of Saint Peter. During this meeting, the bishops will present the realities experienced in the Antilles and discuss pastoral priorities and concerns affecting the nations.

Among the issues that may be raised are the pastoral needs of families and young people, the ongoing mission of evangelisation, the impact of migration and economic hardship, the effects of climate change and natural disasters on Antillean societies, and the continuing effort to strengthen the Church's mission and witness in the region.

Alongside these meetings, the Ad Limina visit also serves as a **spiritual pilgrimage**. The bishops will celebrate the Eucharist and pray at the tombs of Saints Peter and Paul, entrusting

the people of the Antilles to the Lord and seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit for the Church's mission in the region. In this Year of the 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. Francis' death, we will undertake a day's spiritual pilgrimage to Assisi, the birthplace of St. Francis.

The visit provides the bishops with a chance for **prayer, reflection, and renewal**, strengthening their ministry as shepherds of God's people and fostering deeper bonds of unity between the Antilles and the universal Church.

The Bishops of the Antilles Episcopal Conference invite the faithful across the region to **join them in prayer** during this pilgrimage. They request that the People of God pray for the Holy Spirit to guide their conversations and discernment, and for the visit to promote growth and mission within the Antilles.

As they journey to Rome, the bishops carry with them the faith, hopes, and concerns of the people of the Region, entrusting them to the Lord and to the intercession of the **Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, and Saints Peter and Paul**.

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