# Pope Francis Hosts Comedians at Vatican Ahead of G7 Summit



**Pope Francis Hosts Comedians at Vatican Prior to G7 Summit**

On June 14, 2024, Pope Francis held an audience with 106 comedians, including notable figures such as Jimmy Fallon, Chris Rock, and Whoopi Goldberg, at the Vatican in Rome. The event aimed to highlight the positive impact humor has on society, with the Pope remarking that comedians have the "power to spread serenity and smiles," uniting people through laughter.

The gathering of entertainers from 15 countries took place just hours before Pope Francis was scheduled to attend the G7 summit in the southern Italian region of Puglia. This marks the first time a pontiff has attended the G7 meeting, which includes leaders from the world's seven largest advanced economies.

During the session, the Pope praised the comedians for their role in making people smile and encouraged them to use humor to highlight social issues without offending religious sensitivities. Notable attendees included Conan O'Brien, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, Stephen Merchant, and Silvio Orlando. The Pope emphasized the importance of laughter in bridging diverse realities and mitigating conflict in today's communication landscape.

Following the event, which was seen by some critics with mixed reactions, the pontiff met briefly with each comedian. Conan O'Brien humorously noted the brevity of his encounter due to the language barrier.

After the audience with the comedians, Pope Francis proceeded to the G7 summit. He planned private meetings with global leaders, including U.S. President Joe Biden, to discuss urgent global issues such as climate change, the war in Ukraine, and artificial intelligence. This year's G7 summit featured discussions on regulating AI, with the Pope urging for an ethical framework to govern its development.

During the summit, President Biden met with Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni to discuss Ukraine, China's role in supporting Russia, and the broader implications for Europe. The Pope also addressed G7 leaders in a session dedicated to AI, highlighting the ethical concerns surrounding its use.

This visit follows Biden's previous meetings with Pope Francis, reflecting the President's deep connection to his Catholic faith. The Pope concluded his appearance at the G7 summit with a blessing, encouraging ongoing efforts to promote hope and a better world through their work.