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In Pictures: Pope John Paul II's Visit to Morocco in 1985

 **ahiamsaga** — Mar. 30, 2019

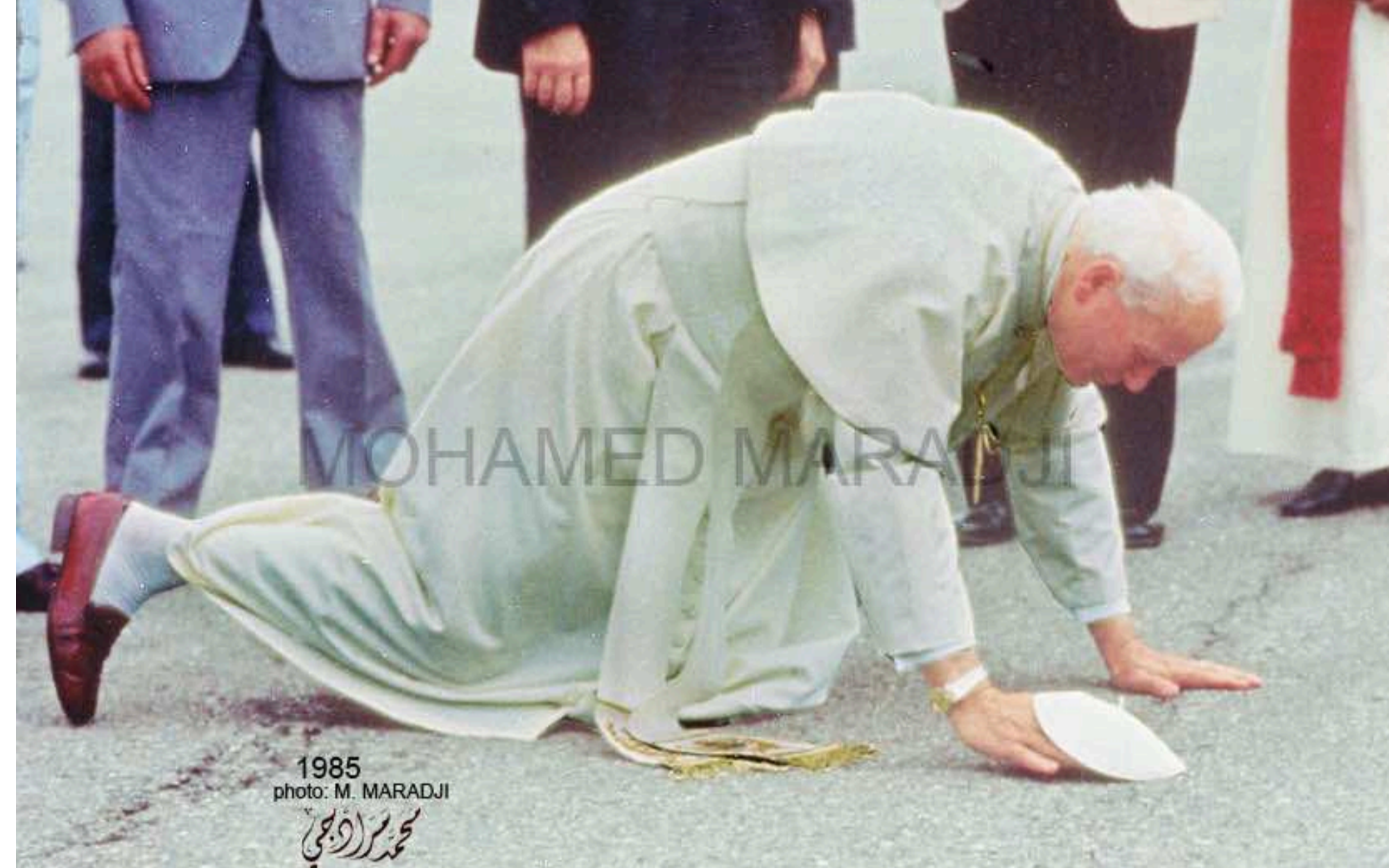
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In Pictures: Pope John Paul II's Visit to Morocco in 1985



Rabat – As Pope Francis's arrival in Rabat today marks the second papal visit to Morocco, the event is reminiscent of John Paul II's visit to the country in 1985—his first to a Muslim country following a direct invitation from its leader. [@Lifestyle articles](#)

When Pope John Paul II landed at Mohammed VI Airport in Casablanca, he knelt and kissed the Moroccan soil, a humble gesture conveying sentiments of love and tolerance toward the country and its people.



The pontiff was greeted by King Hassan II and King Mohammed VI, who was then Crown Prince.

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Pope John Paul II's visit was an opportunity to lay the foundations of the fraternity, mutual understanding, and interfaith bridge that has become a central pillar in the current pope's repeated calls for dialogue between Muslims and Christians in Morocco.

Pope John Paul II then made a speech in front of thousands of Moroccans at the Mohammed V Stadium in Casablanca.

At the time, "Pope John Paul II was concerned about the status of the Church in Morocco and as well as relations with Muslims," says Vatican News.

In his speech, the pope preached and praised the tolerance of Moroccans, but he also warned young Moroccans against extremism and violence. [@Christianity](#)

"Wisdom teaches us that self-discipline and love are the sole levers for the desired renewal [of tolerance]," he had said.



John Paul II also visited the Royal Palace in Casablanca where he a military parade greeted him in the welcoming presence of the Moroccan royal family. [@Lifestyle articles](#)

King Hassan II and Pope John Paul II met for the first time in Vatican, Rome. The Pope organized a reception in honor of the king who was accompanied by Princess Lalla Hasna, his youngest daughter.



ROME 1980

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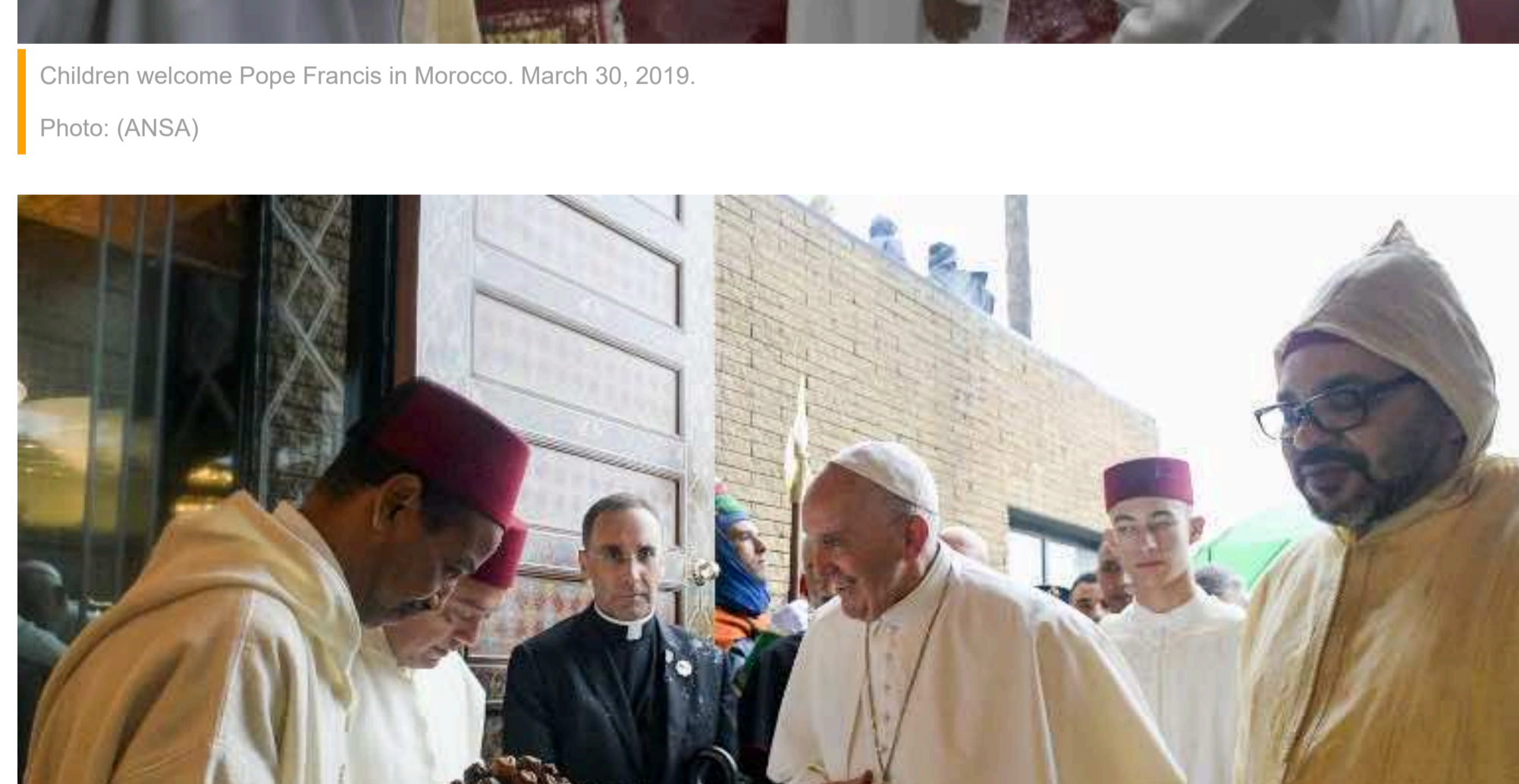
From Pope John Paul II to Pope Francis

On Saturday, the first day of his two-day stay, Pope Francis began his long-anticipated visit on a rainy day. Like they had done with John Paul II, Moroccans welcomed Pope Francis in an atmosphere of warmth and delight. [@Christianity](#)

The Pope will visit the Mausoleum of King Mohammed V, the Mohammed VI Institute for the Training of Imams to meet with Islamic scholars and students, and head to the Caritas migrant center, where he will meet with a group of sub-Saharan migrants with whom he will share messages of hope and peace.



Children welcome Pope Francis in Morocco, March 30, 2019.

[@Children \(ANSA\)](#)


Pope Francis welcomed with dates and molasses.

[@Lifestyle articles](#)

The Pope is also expected to meet with Morocco's Christian community, including the congregation of Morocco-based bishops. He will end his visit with a papal Mass on Sunday.

The pope's visit is a celebration of our shared humanity and an invitation to cultivate values of forbearance and togetherness.

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El Othmani Meets with Student Parents' Associations Amid Teachers Strike

 **hamza-guessous** — Mar. 30, 2019

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Rabat – Head of government Saad Eddine El Othmani and Minister of Education Said Amzazi met on Friday with several associations representing students and parents to update them on the government's measures on the suspension of classes due to the ongoing contractual teachers' protests.

During the meeting, the associations of students parents called on the contractual teachers to resume work. Parents pleaded with the contractual teachers to put students' interest ahead. [@Travel Guides & Travelogues](#)

El Othmani stressed that he personally follows the issue. He evoked the measures and solutions the government has taken to ensure the normal functioning of schools. Like parents, he noted that, students' rights should be a top priority of school-related actions.

While the protesting teachers have voiced the government's passivity in meeting their demands for better working conditions, El Othmani stressed that the government objectively handled the issue.

He said the government has made the necessary amendments to the government's program for contractual teachers. The new program is similar to the one used for the permanent teachers employed in the public sector, giving contractual teachers roughly the same rights as their permanently hired peers, according to El Othmani.

[Read also: Ministry of Education Proposes a Reform for Contractual Teachers](#)

The head of government expressed dissatisfaction with the teachers' strike, underlining that no one has the right to stop the functioning of any public service. Weeks-long suspension of classes is unacceptable and unreasonable because it impedes students' rights, El Othmani argued.

The minister of education highlighted the contract program reforms giving contractual teachers the same labor protection as permanent teachers. The pack includes health care, a pension fund, early retirement in case of a permanent sickness, and the right to promotions to posts with greater responsibilities.

Amzazi reassured parents that his ministry has taken the necessary and "practical" measures in cooperation with a number of partners to ensure that the protests do not clash with students' rights for the rest of the school year.

The associations' representatives appreciated the government initiative to hold a dialogue with them, saluted the authorities' efforts to address the crisis.

Tags: [Head of Government Saad Eddine El Othmani](#) [Moroccan Minister of Education Said Amzazi](#) [protests of contractual teachers](#)

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