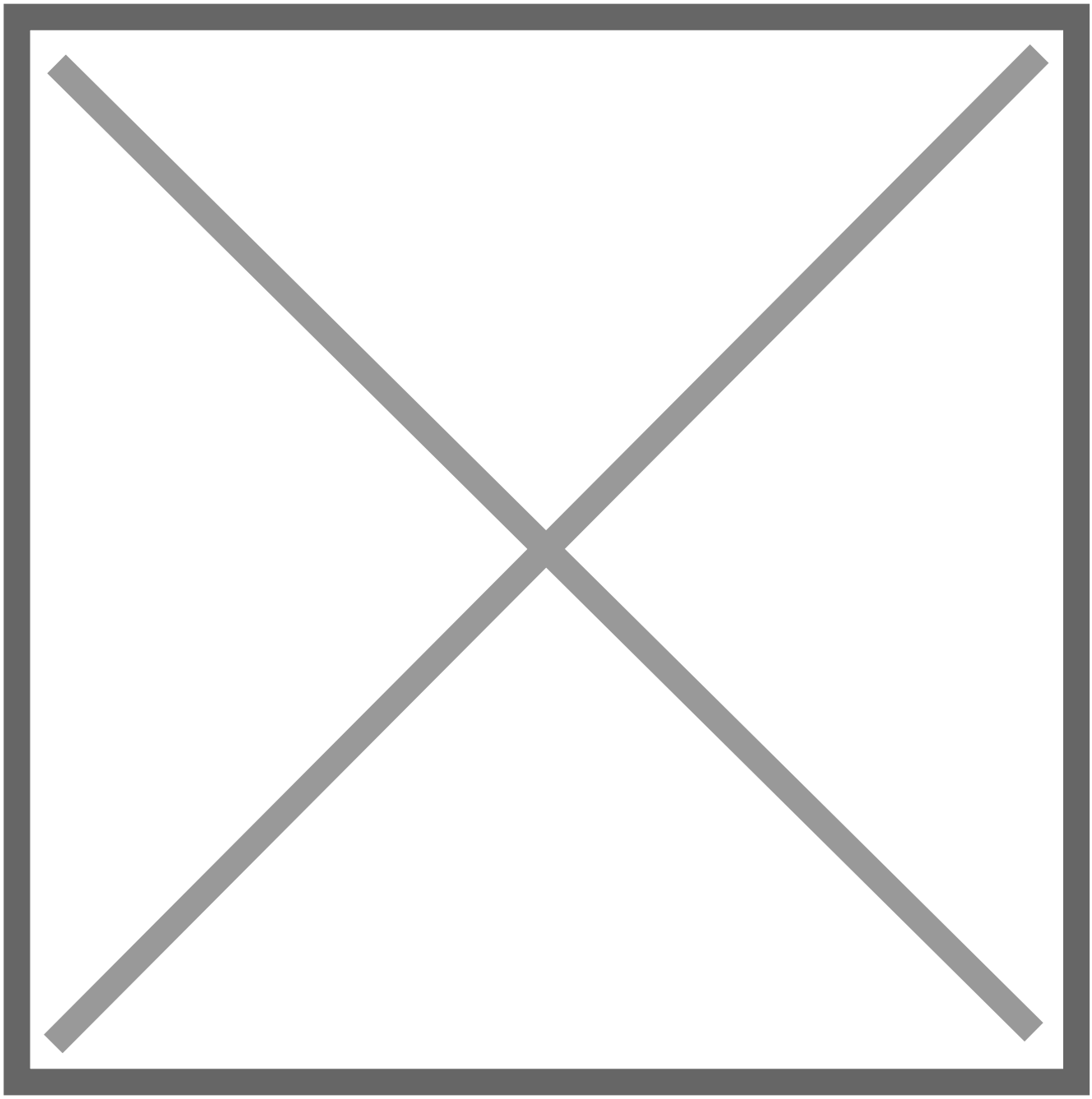


New Swiss Guard members stand at attention during their swearing-in ceremony in the Vatican's San Damaso courtyard in this May 6, 2015, file photo. Starting Sept. 2, Pope Francis will resume his general audience with the public present in the courtyard. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Carol Glatz

View Author Profile

Catholic News Service

View Author Profile

Join the Conversation

Send your thoughts to *Letters to the Editor*. Learn more

Vatican City — August 26, 2020
Share on BlueskyShare on FacebookShare on TwitterEmail to a friendPrint

Twenty-six weeks after his last weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square, Pope Francis will resume his audiences with the public present, but in a Vatican courtyard.

The Prefecture of the Pontifical Household said Aug. 26 that members of the faithful could attend the Wednesday audience talks starting Sept. 2.

Norms for curbing the spread of the coronavirus will be followed, the prefecture said in a written communique, and for the month of September, the audiences will be held in the large San Damaso courtyard of the Apostolic Palace.

Attendance "will be open to anyone who wishes" to participate, and no tickets are needed, it said.

Since March 11, Pope Francis had been livestreaming his general audience talks from the library of the Apostolic Palace. Aides were present to read the Scriptures and summaries of his talk in a variety of languages, but no visitors or pilgrims could attend.

The last time the audience was held with the public present was Feb. 26, Ash Wednesday, in St. Peter's Square. The weekly appointment had not been scheduled March 4 because it fell within the time scheduled for the pope's annual Lenten retreat, which Pope Francis did not attend because he had a cold.

Advertisement