

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

WEEKLY EDITION  IN ENGLISH

Unicuique suum Non praevalent

Fiftieth year, number 40 (2516)

Vatican City

Friday, 6 October 2017

Holy Father visits Cesena and Bologna, Italy

The Church, a home for everyone



SEE PAGES 6-10

Good politics

GIOVANNI MARIA VIAN

Among the many themes the Pope addressed during his visit to Cesena and Bologna, Italy, his attention to politics certainly stands out, combined with his lofty, realistic praise. This is not new for the Pope who linked the various events of the trip, from the important introduction in the small town in the Emilia Romagna Region, to his appointments in Bologna.

His words and reflections to the world of labour outside the Basilica of Saint Petronius were appropriate because they are true for "Italy in general and for all of Europe". As were his dialogue with religious communities in the two cathedrals and his final homily which went well beyond the confines of the region. In a roughly 60 year period, between 1769 and 1839, this small region produced five Popes. Two centuries later, the progressive global growth of the Church saw the succession, beginning in 1978, of three non Italian Bishops of Rome.

In the context of Italy and Europe, where often short-sighted particularisms are growing, the Holy Father spoke in Cesena, birthplace of two of the aforementioned Popes, about the importance of an "emblematic place" such as the "square"; where the aspirations of groups "become harmonized with those of the community", where it is "essential to work together for the common good", and where "good politics" are needed.

He specified that such politics do not "promote individual ambition or the dominance of factions or centres of interest", with the realism, and the scepticism of those who "know that even the best leadership cannot solve all problems in a flash". Faced with the excessive power of finance and the media, Romagna's known passion for politics served the Pope to encourage the rediscovery of "this essential dimension of civil co-existence" as the way to "make the good of the whole prevail over the good of one party".

Attention to the political dimension also marked his encounter with hundreds of migrants, appropriately scheduled as his first meeting in Bologna. During that encounter, the Holy Father made a point of pausing to greet each of the migrants, despite the cold and persistent drizzle. This was consistent with his foresight with regard to the migration issue. The

Pope sends deepest condolences after Las Vegas attack

Senseless shooting

A gunman opened fire at a Las Vegas Music Festival killing at least 58 and injuring nearly 500 on Sunday night, 1 October. On learning the news, a telegram signed by Cardinal Secretary of State, Pietro Parolin, was sent on Monday, 2 October, to Bishop Joseph Anthony Pepe of Las Vegas, on behalf of the Holy Father, expressing his condolences and spiritual closeness to the families of the victims. The following is the English text of the telegram.

"Deeply saddened to learn of the shooting in Las Vegas, Pope Francis sends the assurance of his spiritual closeness to all those affected by this senseless tragedy. He commends the efforts of the police and emergency service personnel, and offers the promise of his prayers for the injured and for all who have died, entrusting them to the merciful love of Almighty God".



Tending to the wounded outside the festival grounds (AP)

To United Bible Societies

Servants of the Word

PAGE 4

General Audience



PAGE 3

Commission for the Protection of Minors

Zero tolerance

PAGE 5

To the Little Sisters of Jesus

Sisters to all

PAGE 12

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

VATICAN BULLETIN



AUDIENCES

Thursday, 28 September

Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education (for Educational Institutes), with Archbishop Angelo Vincenzo Zani, titular Archbishop of Volturmo, Secretary of the same Dicastery

Cardinal Domenico Calcagno, President of the Administration of the Patrimony of the Apostolic See

Archbishop Novatus Rugambwa, titular Archbishop of Tagaria, Apostolic Nuncio to Honduras

Bishop Josef Clemens, titular Bishop of Segernes, Secretary emeritus of the Pontifical Council for the Laity

Friday, 29 September

H.E. Mr Joseph Kojo Akudibillah, Ambassador of Ghana, for the presentation of his Letters of Credence

Cardinal Jorge Liberato Urosa Savino, Archbishop of Caracas, Venezuela

Archbishop Martin Krebs, titular Archbishop of Taborenta, Apostolic Nuncio to New Zealand, Fiji, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, Palau, Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Vanuatu,

Tonga; Apostolic Delegate in the Pacific Oceania

Saturday, 30 September

Cardinal Walter Kasper, President emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity

Fr Luigi Mistò, Secretary of the Administration of the Secretariat for the Economy

Archbishop Mario Giordana, titular Archbishop of Minori, Apostolic Nuncio

Bishop António Augusto dos Santos Marto, of Leiria Fátima, Portugal

Archbishop Calogero La Piana, SDB, Archbishop emeritus of Messina-Lipari-Santa Lucia del Mela, Italy

H.E. Mr Francisco José Ottonelli, Ambassador of Uruguay on a farewell visit

Monday, 2 October

H.E. Mr Gerardo Ángel Bugallo Ottone, Ambassador of Spain, for the presentation of his Letters of Credence

Archbishop Christophe Pierre, titular Archbishop of Gunela, Apostolic Nuncio to the United States of America

H.E. Mr Noel Diaz, with his family

NEW DIOCESE

The Holy Father raised the Apostolic Vicariate of Francistown, Botswana, to the status of Diocese making it a suffragan of the Metropolitan Sec of Pretoria, South Africa. He also appointed Bishop Frank Atese Nubuasah, SVD, titular Bishop of Pauzera, as the first Bishop of Francistown. Until now he has been Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Gaborone, Botswana (2 Oct.).

Bishop-elect Nubuasah, 60, was born in Likpe Abozome, Ghana. He was ordained a priest on 26 July 1980. He was ordained a bishop on 7 November 1980, subsequent to his appointment as Vicar Apostolic of Francistown.

CHANGES IN EPISCOPATE

The Holy Father appointed Fr José Alveir da Silva, CSSp, as Bishop of Cameté, Brazil. Until now he has been Provincial Superior of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit in São Paulo (27 Sept.).

Bishop-elect da Silva, 54, was born in Ipixuna, Diocese of Cruxeiro do Sul in the State of Acre. He studied philosophy and theology. He served as a missionary in Nigeria. He made his perpetual vows for the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on 18 November 1989, and was ordained a priest on 6 December 1992. He has served in parish ministry and as: formator of students of philosophy and theology in the "Padre Laval" Community in Jardim Planalto, São Paulo; executive secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Missionary Action and Interecclesial Cooperation of the Brazilian Episcopal Conference.

The Holy Father appointed Fr Hermann Gletler as Bishop of Innsbruck, Austria. Until now he has been episcopal vicar for *Caritas* and for the Evangelization of the Diocese of Graz-Seckau (27 Sept.).

Bishop-elect Gletler, 52, was born in Übelbach, Steiermark. He holds a *Magister* in Theology and in Art History. He was ordained a priest on 23 June 1991. He served as chaplain and curate for youth pastoral ministry, before being appointed parish priest of Graz-St. Andrä and of Karlau in 1999.

The Holy Father accepted the resignation of Archbishop Domenico Umberto D'Ambrosio of Lecce, Italy (29 Sept.).

The Holy Father appointed Bishop Michele Seccia as Archbishop of Lecce. Until now he has served as Bishop of Teramo-Atri, Italy (29 Sept.).

Archbishop Seccia, 66, was born in Barletta, Italy. He was ordained a priest on 26 November 1977. He was ordained a bishop on 8 September 1997, subsequent to his appointment as Bishop of San Severo, Italy. On 24 June 2006 he was appointed Bishop of Teramo-Atri.

The Holy Father accepted the resignation of Bishop Luciano Pacomio of Mondovi, Italy (29 Sept.).

The Holy Father appointed Fr Egidio Miragoli from the clergy of Lodi, as Bishop of Mondovi. Until now he has been parish priest of Santa Francesca Cabrini Parish in Lodi; judge at the Lombard Regional Ecclesiastical Tribunal and lecturer in canon law (29 Sept.).

Bishop-elect Miragoli, 62, was born in Gradella di Pandino, Italy. He holds a doctorate in canon law. He was ordained a priest on 23 June 1979. He has served in parish ministry and as: private secretary to Bishop emeritus Magnani of Treviso and to Bishop emeritus Capuzzi of Lodi; pastoral collaborator at San Fereolo; director of theological stud-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

New Ambassador of Ghana

Mr *Joseph Kojo Akudibillah*, 69, is married with four children. He holds a diploma in nursing sciences.


He has held the following offices, among others: head nurse at the Bawku Hospital in Bawku, Ghana (1978-1998); vice director of the nursing service, Bawku Rural Eye Program, UER (1998-2000); National Coordinator for the Evaluation of Trachoma, Ministry of Health (1998-1999); National Coordinator of the National Program of Control of Trachoma, Ministry of Health (2000); independent Member of Parliament (MP) for Garu-Tempane (Constituency of the Parliament of Ghana) (2001-2004); member of the Economic Community of the West African States (ECOWAS) (2002-2003); Deputy Minister of Defence under the administration of President Kufour (2003-2004); Managing



On Friday morning, 29 September, the Pope received in audience H.E. Mr Joseph Kojo Akudibillah, Ambassador of Ghana, for the presentation of the Letters by which he is accredited to the Holy See.

Director of Budsum Co. Ltd., Bawku, Upper East Region (from 2004 to the present); Executive Director of the Kropo Charity Hospital Kumasi, Ashanti Region (from 2004 to the present).

L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

WEEKLY EDITION  IN ENGLISH
Unicuique suum  Non praevalentibus

Vatican City
cd.english@ossrom.va
www.osservatoreromano.va

GIOVANNI MARIA VIAN
Editor-in-Chief

Giuseppe Fiorentino
Assistant Editor

Editorial office
via del Pellegrino, 00120 Vatican City
telephone +390669899300, fax +390669883675

TIPOGRAFIA VATICANA EDITRICE
L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO
don Sergio Pellini S.D.B.

Director General
Photo Service
photo@ossrom.va www.photo.va

Advertising Agency
Il Sole 24 Ore S.p.A.
System Comunicazione Pubblicitaria
Via Monte Rosa 91, 20149 Milano
segreteria@redirezionesystem@ilsole24ore.com

Subscription rates: Italy - Vatican: € 3.00; Europe: € 100.00 - US\$ 148.00 E 80.00; Latin America, Africa, Asia: € 100.00 - US\$ 160.00 - E 88.00; Oceania, North America: € 162.00 - US\$ 240.00 - E 130.00. Management Office: phone +390669899480; fax +390669885664; e-mail subscriptions@ossrom.va. *for India:* The weekly English Edition of L'Osservatore Romano is published and distributed in India by Camel International Publishing House, Cotton Hill, Tiruvandur - 605 014, Kerala-India; phone: +9147572723; fax: +9147528189; 239224; e-mail: cip@indiasol.net.in; kirosemas@camelpublications.com. *for North America:* L'Osservatore Romano (USPS 016-410) is published fifty times per year (weekly, except third week in August and last week in December) by Our Sunday Visitor, L'Osservatore Romano, English Edition, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46720. Periodicals Postage Pending at Huntington, IN, and additional mailing offices, USA - phone: 800-348-2440 ext7; fax: 866-891-7390 - e-mail: osssales@ossrom.com. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Our Sunday Visitor, 200 Noll Plaza, Huntington, IN 46720

At the General Audience Francis speaks about hope and the communities persecuted in the Middle East

The true Christian

At the General Audience on Wednesday, 4 October, Pope Francis focused on "Missionaries of Hope today". In particular he spoke about "our brothers and sisters in the Middle East who bear witness to hope and offer their lives for this witness. They are true Christians!". The following is a translation of the Pope's catechesis, which he offered in Italian.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,
Good Morning!

In this catechesis, I want to address the theme of "Missionaries of Hope today". I am pleased to do so at the start of October, the month which the Church dedicates especially to mission, and also on the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, who was a great missionary of hope!

Actually the Christian is not a prophet of misfortune. We are not prophets of misfortune. The essence of the Christian proclamation is the opposite, the opposite of misfortune: it is Jesus who died for love and whom God raised on Easter morning. And this is the nucleus of Christian faith. If the Gospels had ended at Jesus' burial, the story of this prophet would have been added to the many biographies of heroic figures who expended their lives for an ideal. The Gospel would then be an edifying book, and also a comforting one, but it would not be a proclamation of hope.

But the Gospels do not end on Good Friday. They go beyond it; and indeed, it is this additional fragment which transforms our lives. Jesus' disciples felt dejected on the Saturday after the Crucifixion. The stone that was rolled against the door to the sepulchre had also sealed the three thrilling years they had lived with the Teacher of Nazareth. It seemed that everything was over, and some of them, disappointed and afraid, were already leaving Jerusalem.

But Jesus is Risen! This unexpected fact overturned and amazed the

minds and hearts of the disciples because Jesus was not raised for his own sake, as if his rebirth were a prerogative to envy: if he ascended to the Father, it was because he wanted his Resurrection to be



shared with every human being and to take each creature Above. And on the day of Pentecost, the disciples were transformed by the breath of the Holy Spirit. Not only would they have good news to share with everyone, but they themselves would become different from before, as reborn to new life. The Resurrection of Jesus transforms us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is

alive. He is alive amongst us. He is living and has the power to transform.

How beautiful it is to think of ourselves as proclaimers of the Resurrection of Jesus, not only in words, but also in our conduct and testimony of life! Jesus does not want disciples who are merely able to repeat memorized formulas. He wants witnesses: people who spread hope, with their way of welcoming,

They bring heaven into hearts. They look beyond. They always look beyond. Whoever has had the grace of embracing the Resurrection of Jesus can still hope in the unhoped for. The martyrs of all times, with their fidelity to Christ say that injustice does not have the final word on life. In the Risen Christ we can continue to hope. The men and women who have a "reason" live, resist better than others in times of misfortune. But those who have Jesus at their side, do not fear anything. And this is why, Christians, true Christians, are never easy and accommodating people. Their meekness should not be confused with a sense of insecurity and submission. Saint Paul spurred Timothy to suffer for the Gospel, and he said the following: "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power and love and self control" (2 Tim 1:7). When they fall, they always rise again.

This is why dear brothers and sisters, the Christian is a missionary of hope, not by his or her merits, but thanks to Jesus, the grain of wheat which fell to the earth, died and bore much fruit (cf. Jn 12:24).

SPECIAL GREETINGS

I greet the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors taking part in today's Audience, particularly the groups from England, Scotland, Denmark, Nigeria, Australia, Indonesia, New Zealand, China and the United States of America. I especially greet the new students at the Pontifical Beda College in Rome, with the assurance of my closeness in prayer as they begin their studies for the priesthood. Upon all of you, and your families, I invoke the joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I offer a special greeting to *young people, to the sick and to newlyweds*. Today, we are celebrating the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi. Dear *young people*, may his example strengthen in each of you your attention to creation; may he sustain you, dear *sick people*, by relieving your daily trials and dear *newlyweds*, may he help you build your family on charitable love.

I would like to announce that the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops has organized a pre-Synodal meeting to take place from 19-24 March 2018, to which all young people from around the world are invited: young Catholics, young Christians from other denominations or other religions and young non-believers. This initiative is part of preparations to pave the way for the next General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which has as its theme: Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment, scheduled for October 2018. With this journey, the Church wants to listen to the voice, sensitivities, the faith and also some of the doubts and criticism of the young – we must listen to young people –. This is why the conclusions of the March meeting will be communicated to the Synod Fathers.

New Ambassador of Spain

H.E. Mr Gerardo Ángel Bugallo Ottone, 63, is married with two children. He holds a degree in law and a diploma in international relations from the School of Diplomacy. He has served as: secretary at the Embassy and Consulate in Algiers (1984-1987); secretary at the Embassy in Budapest (1987-1990); adjunct Consul General for Cultural Affairs in New York (1990-1993); Vice Director General of the "North America" Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1993-1994); Cultural Advisor at the Embassy in Tokyo (1996-2000); Head of Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (July to November 2000); advisor to the Prime Minister's Cabinet (2001-2002); Director General of the "North America, Asia and Pacific" Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2003-2004); Permanent Representative Ambassador at the United Nations Conference on Disarmament in Geneva (2004-2009); Consul General in Sydney (2009-2013); Ambassador in Kiev (2013-2017).



On Monday morning, 2 October, the Pope received in audience H.E. Mr Gerardo Ángel Bugallo Ottone, Ambassador of Spain, for the presentation of the Letters by which he is accredited to the Holy See.

smiling and loving; above all loving because the power of the Resurrection makes Christians capable of loving even when love seems to have lost its motivation. There is a "plus" which embodies Christian life and that cannot be easily explained by fortitude or greater optimism. Faith, our hope, is not just optimism; it is something else, more! It is as if believers have an additional "piece of heaven" over their heads. This is beautiful: we are people with an extra piece of heaven over our heads, accompanied by a presence which some are not even able to sense.

Thus, the task of Christians in this world is to open spaces for salvation, like regenerative cells, capable of infusing the blood of life to what seemed lost forever. When the sky is cloudy, it is a blessing for someone who knows how to talk about the sun. Here then, the true Christian is like this: not whiny and angry, but convinced through the power of the Resurrection that no evil is infinite, no night is without end, no man or woman is definitively wrong and no hatred is imperious to love.

Certainly, at times the disciples would pay a high price for this hope given to them by Jesus. Let us think about the many Christians who did not abandon their people when the time of persecution began. They stayed there, where even the morrow was uncertain, and where no plans of any kind could be made. They remained, hoping in God. And let us think about our brothers and sisters in the Middle East who bear witness to hope and offer their lives for this witness. They are true Christians!

To the Church Relations Committee of the United Bible Societies

Servants of the Word

"Let us walk together to spread the word. Let us pray together", the Holy Father said in an address to the Delegation of the Church Relations Committee of the United Bible Societies whom he received in audience on Thursday morning, 5 October. The following is the English text of the Pope's discourse, which he delivered in Italian.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

"Grace be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with love undying" (Eph 6:24). With these words of Saint Paul I am happy to welcome the members of the Church Relations Committee of the United Bible Societies, and I thank Cardinal Onaiyekan for his presentation. It is my hope that the grace of the Holy Spirit will be with you, and with all who strive to make the Gospel known by making the Bible more easily accessible in diverse languages and today's wide variety of communication media.

We are servants of the *word of salvation*, which never returns to the Lord empty. Allowing ourselves to be "wounded" by the word is indispensable for expressing verbally that which overflows from the heart. For the word of God "is piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and

discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Heb 4:12).

We are servants of the *word of eternal life*, and we believe that man not only lives on bread, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. (cf. Mt 4:4). Aided by the Holy Spirit, we must nourish ourselves at the table of the word by reading, listening, studying and bearing witness with our lives. We devote time to those we love, and here we are dealing with the love of God who desires to talk

to us and offer us words of life eternal.

We are servants of the *word of reconciliation*, also among Christians, and we wish with all our heart that "the word of the Lord may speed on and triumph" (2 Thess 3:1). It is right therefore to expect a new impetus to our spiritual life from a greater respect for God's word.

We are servants of the *word that "went out" from God and "was made flesh"* (Jn 1:14). It is vital that the Church today go out to proclaim the Gospel to

all, in all places, on all occasions, without delay, reluctance or fear (cf. *Evangelii Gaudium*, 23). We do so in obedience to the Lord's missionary mandate, certain of his presence among us until the end of the world (cf. Mt 28:20).

We are servants of the *word of truth* (cf. Jn 8:32). We are convinced that "the unity willed by God can be attained only by the adherence of all to the content of revealed faith in its entirety. In matters of faith, compromise is in contradiction with God who is Truth. In the Body of Christ, 'the way, the truth, and the life' (Jn 14:6), who could consider legitimate a reconciliation brought about at the expense of the truth?" (*Ut Unum Sint*, 18).

We are servants of the *powerful word of God* that enlightens, protects, defends, heals and frees. "The word of God is not fettered!" (2 Tim 2:9). Many of our brothers and sisters are in prison on account of the word, and many more have shed their blood as a testimony to their faith in Jesus Christ.

Let us walk together to spread the word (cf. *Acts* 6:7). Let us pray together, that "the Father's will be done" (cf. Mt 6:10). Let us work together, that what the Lord has said may be accomplished in us (cf. *Lk* 1:38).

Thank you for your visit, dear brothers and sisters. Let us remain in fraternal communion and pray for each other. Thank you.



Vatican Bulletin

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

ies at the episcopal seminary; Defender of the Bond of the Diocesan Tribunal; promoter of justice; director of the Mary Immaculate Most Holy and Saint Pius X priestly institutes; Vicar Forane of Lodi; one of the founding members of the editorial board of the *Quaderni di Diritto Ecclesiale* journal.

The Holy Father appointed Fr Darius Trijonis from the clergy of Telšiai, Lithuania, as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Vilnius, Lithuania, assigning him the titular episcopal See of Fissiana. Until now he served as administrator of the Cathedral of Telšiai (29 Sept.).

Bishop-elect Trijonis, 44, was born in Telšiai. He was ordained a priest on 18 May 1997. He holds a licence in theology from the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome. On his return to Lithuania he served as prefect and lecturer at the Diocesan Seminary. He holds a doctorate in moral Theology. He has served in parish ministry and as vice-rector and lecturer at the seminary; lecturer in catechetics; prefect of studies at the Diocesan Seminary; undersecretary of the Episcopal Conference of Lithuania.

The Holy Father accepted the resignation of Bishop Mario

Ceccobelli of Gubbio, Italy (29 Sept.).

The Holy Father appointed Fr Luciano Paolucci Bedini from the clergy of the Archdiocese of Ancona-Osimo, as Bishop of Gubbio. Until now he has been rector of the Pontifical Pius XI Regional Seminary in Ancona (29 Sept.).

Bishop-elect Paolucci Bedini, 49, was born in Jesi, Italy. He holds a bachelor's degree in theology. He was ordained a priest on 30 September 1995. He has served in parish ministry and as: director of the diocesan catechetical office; lecturer in catechetics and pastoral theology at the Institute of Religious Sciences in Ancona; vice rector of the Pontifical Pius XI Regional Seminary of Ancona; regional ecclesiastical assistant of the AGESCI; member of the regional presbyteral commission.

SUPREME TRIBUNAL OF THE APOSTOLIC SIGNATURE

The Holy Father appointed as members of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature of Vatican City: Cardinal Agostino Vallini, Cardinal Edoardo Menichelli, Cardinal Raymond Leo Burke and Archbishop Frans Daneels, O.Praem., Archbishop Johannes Willibrordus Maria Hendriks (30 Sept.).

VATICAN CITY

The Holy Father appointed as judicial vicar of the Ecclesiastical Tribunal of Vatican City, Fr Denis Baudot from the clergy of the Archdiocese of Lyons, France. Until now he has served as Official at the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature (30 Sept.).

CONGREGATION FOR THE EVANGELIZATION OF PEOPLES

The Holy Father has appointed Fr Ryszard Szymdki, OMI, as Undersecretary of the said Congregation. Until now he has been Secretary General of the Pontifical Missionary Societies (28 Sept.).

RELATIONS WITH STATES

The Holy Father has appointed Archbishop Savio Hon Tai-Fai, SDB, titular Archbishop of Sila, as Apostolic Nuncio in Greece. Until now he has been Secretary of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples (28 Sept.).

NECROLOGY

Bishop Edmond Abelé, Bishop emeritus of Digne, France, at age 92 (27 Sept.).

Bishop Anthony Leopold Raymond Peiris, Bishop emeritus of Kurunegala, Sri Lanka, at age 85 (29 Sept.).

World Day of Social Communications

"The truth will set you free" (Jn 8:32). "Fake news and journalism for peace" is the theme that the Holy Father has chosen for the 52nd World Day of Social Communications in 2018. It relates to so-called "fake news", namely baseless information that generates and feeds the extreme polarization of opinions. It often involves the misleading distortion of facts, which can lead to negative repercussions at the level of individual and collective behaviour. As leading social media giants, institutions and governments take action to confront this phenomenon, the Church too wishes to offer its contribution, proposing a reflection on the causes and the consequences of disinformation in the media, and helping to promote professional journalism, which seeks the truth, and therefore is a journalism of peace that promotes understanding between peoples.

World Day of Social Communications, the only World Day established by Vatican II (*Inter Mirifica*, 1963), is celebrated in many countries on the Sunday preceding Pentecost (in 2018, 13 May).

The text of the Holy Father's Message for World Day of Social Communications is traditionally published on the feast day of Saint Francis de Sales, patron of journalists, 24 January.



To the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors

Zero tolerance sexual abuse policy

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I extend a cordial welcome to you at the beginning of this Plenary Assembly. In particular, I would like to thank Cardinal O'Malley for his kind greeting, while I express my sincere appreciation of the reflections presented on your behalf by Sr Hermenegild Makoro and Mr Bill Kilgallon. They have explained very well the role that I envisioned for the Commission when I instituted it three years ago as a service which I trust will continue to be of great assistance in the coming years to the Pope, the Holy See, Bishops and Major Superiors throughout the world.

Today, in your presence, I would like to share with you the profound distress I feel in my soul at the condition of abused children, as I have already had the opportunity to do recently, on different occasions.

The sex abuse scandal is truly a terrible disgrace for the whole of humanity, and affects so many children, young people and vulnerable adults in all countries and in all societies. For the Church too it has been a very painful experience. We feel ashamed of the abuses committed by holy ministers, who should be the most trustworthy. But we have also experienced a call, which we are certain comes directly from our Lord Jesus Christ: to embrace the mission of the Gospel for the protection of all minors and vulnerable adults.

Allow me to say with all clarity that sexual abuse is a horrible sin, completely opposed to and in contradiction to what Christ and the Church teach us. Here in Rome, I had the privilege of listening to the stories that victims and survivors of abuse wanted to share. In those encounters, they openly shared the effects that sexual abuse has had on their lives and those of their families. I know that you too have had the blessed occasion to take part in similar meetings and that such encounters continue to foster your personal commitment to do everything possible to combat this evil and eliminate this failure among us.

Therefore, today I reiterate once again that the Church, at all levels, will respond with the application of the firmest meas-

"The Church irrevocably and at all levels intends to apply the 'zero tolerance' policy against the sexual abuse of minors". Pope Francis emphasized this precept on Thursday morning, 21 September, to the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors. He spoke extemporaneously to members of the organization whom he received in audience, and consigned to them the text of a discourse in Italian which is translated below.

ures to all those who have betrayed their call and have abused the Children of God. The disciplinary measures that the particular Churches have adopted must be applied to all those who work in the institutions of the Church. However, the primary responsibility belongs to the Bishops, priests and religious, those who have received from the Lord the vocation to offer their life to service, including the vigilant protection of all children, young people and vulnerable adults. For this reason, the Church irrevocably and at all levels intends to apply the 'zero tolerance' principle against the sexual abuse of minors.

The *Motu Proprio, As a Loving Mother*, promulgated on the basis of a proposal by your Commission and with reference to the principle of the Church's responsibility, addresses the cases of diocesan Bishops, Eparchs and Major Superiors of religious institutes who, through negligence, have committed or omitted acts that resulted in serious injury to others, or that affect a community in its entirety (cf. Art. 1).

Over the last three years, the Commission has continuously emphasized the most important principles that guide the Church's efforts to protect all minors and vulnerable adults. In such a way, it has fulfilled the mission which I entrusted to it; as an "advisory body at the service of the Holy Father", to offer its experience "for the purposes of promoting local responsibility in the particular Churches for the protection of all minors and vulnerable adults" (*Statute*, Art. 1).

I was delighted to learn that many particular Churches have adopted your recommendations for a Day of Prayer and for Dialogue with the victims and survivors of abuse, as well as with the representatives of victim organizations. They told us that these meetings have been a profound experience of grace throughout the world, and I sincerely hope that all the particular Churches will benefit from them.

It is also encouraging to know that many Episcopal Conferences and Conferences of Major Superiors have sought your advice regarding

Guidelines for the Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults. Your cooperation in sharing the best procedures is truly valuable, especially for the Churches with fewer resources for this crucial work of protection. I would like to encourage you to continue your cooperation in this work with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, so that these measures may be inculcated in the different Churches around the world.

Lastly, I would like to express my appreciation especially of the numerous opportunities for learning, education and formation that you have offered in many particular Churches throughout the world, and also here in Rome, in the various dicasteries of the Holy See, in the course for new Bishops and in various international conferences. I am pleased to know that the presentation that Cardinal O'Malley and Mrs Marie Collins, one of your founding members, made last week for the new Bishops was favourably received. These educational programmes offer the type of support which will allow dioceses, religious institutes and all Catholic institutions to adopt and use the most appropriate materials for this work.

The Church is called to be a place of piety and compassion, especially for those who have suffered. For all of us, the Catholic Church continues to be a field hospital that accompanies us on our spiritual journey. It is the place where we can sit with others, listen to them and share with them our struggles and our faith in the Good News of Jesus Christ. I am fully confident that the Commission will continue to be a place where the voices of the victims and survivors will be heard with interest as we have much to learn from them and from their personal stories of courage and perseverance.

Allow me to thank you once again for your efforts and your advice during these last three years. I entrust you to the Holy Virgin Mary, the Mother who remains beside us throughout our lives. I impart my Apostolic Blessing to all of you and your loved ones and I ask you to continue to pray for me.



Cory Calantropio, "That Room"

Pope Francis paid a one day Pastoral Visit to two northern Italian cities on Sunday, 1 October. First to Cesena for the third centenary of the birth of Pope Pius VI, and later traveling to Bologna for the conclusion of the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress.

CESENA

For "the good governance of the city", it is "essential to work together for the common good": this message lay at the heart of Pope Francis' discourse to civil authorities, religious and the faithful during his morning visit to Cesena in northern Italy on Sunday, 1 October. Greeting crowds in Piazza del Popolo Square at the start of his visit, the Pontiff spoke of "good politics" that remain above personal ambitions and interests.

In his address, the Pope recalled the "illustrious children" to have come from Cesena, including "a Papes: Pius VI, the third centenary of whose birth we remember, and Pius VII".

Speaking of the Square where the citizenry had gathered to greet him, the Pope observed that for centuries, it had been a place where economic and social initiatives had been undertaken, often for the common good of the col-

lective. And political life, he emphasized, must be likewise inclusive, open to the "legitimate aspirations of individuals and groups", always with the good of the entire population in mind. Politics, he added, should be neither "servant nor master but rather a friend and collaborator; neither fearful nor rash, but responsible and therefore courageous and prudent at the same time".

He invited young and old to be engaged in politics and "to prepare themselves adequately" for the endeavour.

However, he warned that "corruption is the woodworm of the political vocation" which keeps civilization from flourishing. Yet, he reflected that "the good politician always ends up being a martyr to service", because he or she is willing to open up his personal ideas to debate in order to foster the good of all. The Pope then called on the citizens of Cesena to demand "coherent efforts" from public authorities as well as "preparation, moral rectitude, capacity of initiative, forbearance, patience and strength of character" to confront today's challenges, "without however, demanding an impossible perfection". Politicians, moreover, should have the strength of character to admit their mistakes and ask forgiveness. The "magic wand", the Pope reflected, "does not work in politics", observing that even the best managers can't solve every problem at once. Those who limit their actions to "observing and criticizing from the balcony the work of others" the Pope stressed, have not tried to take action themselves. He noted

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



Pope Francis is wearing the identification bracelet given to him before the meeting with migrants and refugees. It bears his name and the number 39000003

Holy Father in Cesena and Bologna

The Church, a home for everyone



BOLOGNA

Later Sunday morning, Pope Francis traveled to Bologna where, at a regional centre, he met young migrants and refugees and listened to some of their stories. There, he was given a yellow plastic bracelet bearing his name and the number 39000003. The bracelet was similar to those issued to migrants arriving in Italy and the Holy Father wished to express his closeness to them by immediately placing it around his wrist. In his first discourse in Bologna, the Pope called for a minute of silence in memory of all those who died attempting the dangerous journey to Europe. Given the universality and gravity of the migrant/refugee issue, we have published the complete English translation of the Papal address in the present Edition (see page 9).

Cherishing throngs of people lined the streets to catch a glimpse of the Pope as he traveled by popemobile to the Piazza Maggiore where many representatives of the world of labour had gathered to greet him. In his discourse to them, the Pope reaffirmed the value and dignity of work for all. The Holy Father then led the faithful in the recitation of the *Angelus* Prayer (see page 9).

Shortly thereafter, in the Basilica of Saint Petronius, the Pontiff joined some 1,000 poor people from various countries for lunch. Among them were refugees, the elderly, the homeless, detainees, former drug addicts and the disabled. Speaking to them before the meal, the Pope said the Church is a "home for everyone, particularly for the

poor". We are "all wayfarers, mendicants of love and of hope and we need this God who is close to us and reveals himself in the breaking of the bread".

Following lunch, the Pontiff met priests, seminarians, permanent deacons and men and women religious in the Cathedral. The Holy Father answered a couple of their questions, the first of which concerned the need for evangelic fraternity in priestly life. In his response, the Pope warned against the isolation of some priests and spoke of the need for the clergy, in conjunction with their bishops, to be an active part of their diocesan communities. Priestly life, he added, requires patience and respect and support for others but also the courage to speak up when one sees a problem or disagrees with someone else, even one's superior. In his relations with his flock, a pastor, like the

shepherd leading his sheep, the Pope stressed, must go *before* them to show them the way; go *amongst* them to understand them; and go *behind* them, to help those who are trailing far behind the others. The Pope also warned against "clericalism, one of the worst sins" and the "career-climber" attitude, the "plague in a priest". A status-seeker, he added, is "capable of creating much discord in the heart of a presbyterial body". He also warned against gossip, which he said is another one of the worst vices to be found in clericalism. Posing another question, one religious asked the Pope how they can remain joyful witnesses to Christ without succumbing to "the psychology of survival". In response, the Pope likened this survival mode among the consecrated to "waiting for the funeral hearse" to carry away their institutes. Warn-

ing them against such "pessimism" and this "attitude of defeat" which encourages them to hoard their wealth in fear of leaner times, the Pope urged them to reconsider the value of poverty. He spoke of the "real" state of poverty in vocations and encouraged them to ask themselves why their institutes are barren, having failed to attract young people to their charism. He suggested, therefore, that the consecrated "sow" the Lord's fertile seeds by embracing poverty, and by reaching out "with sincerity, without ideologies" to the less fortunate and to the sick.

Afterwards, the Pope traveled by popemobile to *San Domenico* Square where he entered the Basilica dedicated to Saint Dominic for a moment of prayer before the Founder of the Order of Preachers' tomb. Upon recenter-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10





After his arrival by helicopter in Bologna, on the second leg of his pastoral visit on Sunday, 1 October, the Holy Father met with migrants, refugees and the staff of a regional migrant centre. The following is a translation of the Pope's address, which he delivered in Italian.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I greet you cordially and I wish to assure you of my closeness. I wanted my first meeting in Bologna to take place here. This is the "port" of arrival for those who come from very far away places and through sacrifices, which at times, you are not even able to recount.

Many people do not know you and they are afraid. This makes them feel they have the right to judge and to do so harshly and coldly, also thinking that they see things clearly. But that is not so. One can only see well through closeness which brings mercy. Without this, other people remain strangers, even enemies, and cannot become our neighbours. From a distance we can think and do anything, as easily happens when dreadful

Good politics

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

phenomenon of migration, in fact, "requires vision and great determination in management, intelligence and facilities, as well as clear policies that do not permit distortion or exploitation, which are even more unacceptable when applied to the poor", Bergoglio said. He then asked the migrants to be open to the culture of this city which is traditionally hospitable and to "walk the path indicated by this country's laws".

The Pope spoke about High Politics during his meeting with students and faculty of the University of Bologna, emblem of the city's identity, where the Pope spoke again about the "courageous dreams" of the Founders of a unified Europe. Speaking on behalf of the millions who died as victims of armed conflicts, he quoted Pope Paul VI's address to the United Nations, ("no more war, never again one against the other, never, never again") and forcefully condemned "those who generate violence, promote the arms race and trample on peace with business".

G.M.V.

comments and insults are posted on the Internet. If we look at our neighbours without mercy, we cannot understand their suffering and difficulties. And if we look at our neighbours without mercy, we also run the risk of God looking at us without mercy. Today, I see only a great desire for friendship and help. I would like to thank the institutions and all the volunteers for their attention and commitment in taking care of those of you who are guests here. In you, as in every foreigner who knocks on our door, I see Jesus Christ who identifies with the foreigner of every age and condition, whether welcomed or rejected (cf. Mt 25:35-43).

This phenomenon requires vision and great determination in management; intelligence and facilities, as well as clear policies that do not permit distortion or exploitation, which are even more unacceptable when applied to the poor. I believe it is truly necessary that a greater number of countries adopt private and community-based support programmes of welcome, and open humanitarian corridors for refugees in difficult situations, in order to avoid unbearable long waiting periods and loss of time which can be misleading. Integration begins with knowledge. Contact with others leads to the discovery of the "secret" which each of us carries within us and also the gift that it represents, to opening up to them and accepting their positive characteristics, attributes, thus learning to love them and overcoming fear, helping them to integrate into the new community which welcomes them. The lady who accompanied me said each of you has a story. And this story is something holy. We must respect, accept and welcome it and help you to keep going. Some of you are minors: these young boys and girls are in special need of tenderness and have the right to protection which provides temporary lodging and foster-care programmes.

Fighters of hope

To refugees

I come among you because I want to bring your eyes into mine – I have seen your eyes –, your hearts into mine. I want to keep your faces with me which ask to be remembered, helped, I would say "adopted", because after all, you are searching for someone who will put their stakes on you and trust you, help you find that future which you hoped in, and that hope brought you all the way here to find.

Do you know what you are? You are "fighters of hope"! Some of you did not make it here because they were swallowed by the desert or by the sea. People do not remember them, but God knows their names and he welcomes them beside him. Let us keep a moment of silence to remember them and pray for them. [silence]. To you, fighters of hope, I hope that your hopes will not delude you or worse, turn into despair, thanks to the many who help you not to lose it. I would like to carry in my heart your fears, your difficulties, your risks, uncertainties also many slogans: "Help us get some documents"; and the people you love, who are close to you and for whom you began the search for a future. Bearing you in our eyes and hearts will help us to work harder to build a welcoming city that is able to create opportunities for all. I therefore exhort you to be open to this city's culture, prepared to walk the path indicated by this country's laws.

The Church is a mother who does not make any distinctions and who loves each one as a child of God, in his image. Bologna is a city which has always been known for being welcoming. This has been reconfirmed in many experiences of solidarity and hospitality in parishes



and religious contexts, but also in many families and in various social associations. Some have found a new brother to help or a child to raise. And some have found new parents who want a better future to give them. How I wish that these experiences, which are possible for everyone, may multiply. May the city have no fear of giving the five loaves of bread and the two fish: Providence will intervene and everyone will be satisfied.

Bologna was the first city in Europe to free servants from slavery, about 760 years ago or so. They numbered precisely 5,855. So many! And yet, Bologna was not afraid. They were ransomed by the Municipality, actually, by the city. Perhaps they also did this for economic reasons, because freedom helps everyone and suits everyone. They were not afraid to welcome those who were considered "not people" and to recognise them as "human beings". They recorded the name of each of them in a book! How I wish that your names were also written down and remembered, so that together, we may find a common future, as happened then, a common future.

I thank you and impart my heartfelt blessing to you. And please pray for me.



The Holy Father's last appointment of the morning was in the Basilica of Saint Petronius where he shared lunch with the poor, refugees and detainees. Before sitting down for the meal, the Pontiff spoke about the "Our Father" prayer, as the prayer of the poor. After emphasizing the importance of charity, Francis added: "At the end, you will be given the most precious food, the Gospel, the Word of that God we all treasure in our hearts, as for Christians it has the kind face of Jesus. It is for you! It is for those who need it! Take it and carry it as a sign, as a personal seal of God's friendship".

Never bend solidarity to the logic of financial profit

To the world of labour

After meeting with migrants and refugees, the Holy Father's second encounter in Bologna on Sunday, 1 October, was with the world of work. The Holy Father was welcomed by Archbishop Matteo Maria Zuppi of Bologna. The following is a translation of the Pope's address and his remarks at the Angelus, which were delivered in Italian.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I greet all of you from the world of labour, in all its different aspects. Among these however, there is also a negative one, that is, the difficult, at times distressing, situations of unemployment. Thank you for your welcome!

You represent different social entities, often in bitter disagreement with each other, but you have also learned that, only together can one resolve the crisis and build a better future. Only

a society that is more just is not a dream of the past, but rather a commitment, a task that requires everyone's contribution today.

The situation of youth unemployment and that of the many who have lost their jobs and are not able to re-integrate, are realities to which we cannot become accustomed, treating them as mere statistics. And this is the temptation.

Hospitality and the battle against poverty are largely re-

vidual and the common good. However, in order for this to happen effectively and not merely be proclaimed in words, opportunities for dignified work must be increased. This is a task which appertains to society as a whole: in this phase in particular, the whole of society in its various components, is called to make every effort to ensure that labour, which is the primary factor for dignity, be one of the main preoccupations.

We are here before Saint Petronius, remembered as *Pater et Protector* and always depicted holding your city in his hands. From here, we can physically see three fundamental aspects of your city: the Church, the

venered by all the people of Bologna.

At the end of the Marian prayer the Holy Father mentioned the Beatification of Titus Zeman, SDB, the commemoration of Saint Jerome and the Traditional Prayer of the Rosary of Pompeii.

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Salesian priest, Titus Zeman, was Beatified yesterday, Bratislava, Slovakia, yesterday. He joins the legion of 20th century martyrs because he died in 1969, after being imprisoned for a long time on account of his faith and his pastoral service. May his witness support us in life's most difficult moments



dialogue between the reciprocal parties can lead to finding efficient and innovative solutions for everyone, including working conditions, and in particular the crucial *welfare* [system]. Some people call this "Emilia's system". Try to develop this. There is a need to ensure stable farsighted solutions capable of answering the needs of people and of families.

Your territory has a long-standing experience of cooperation borne from the fundamental value of solidarity. It still has much to offer today, also in aiding the many people in difficulty and in need of that "social lift", which according to some, is completely disregarded. Let us never bend solidarity to the logic of financial profit, also because in this way, we take it away from – I could say rob – the weaker ones who are in great need of it. Seeking

related to employment. One cannot offer effective help to the poor without also giving them the opportunity to find employment and dignity. This is the pressing challenge, as in the post-war years of reconstruction to overcome the chronic poverty [the conflict] left in its wake. The Recent "Work Pact" signed by all the social parties, including the Church in a joint commitment to help each other in the search for long-lasting responses, not alms, is an important tool which I hope will bring the desired results.

The economic crisis has a European and a global dimension; and as we know, it is also an ethical, spiritual and human crisis. At its base, there is the betrayal of the common good, both by individuals and by groups in power. Therefore, the laws governing profit need to be changed to serve the indi-

Municipality and the University. When they are in dialogue and cooperate with each other, the precious "humanism that they express is strengthened and the city – so to speak – "breathes", has a horizon and is not afraid to face the challenges which arise. I encourage you to treasure this humanism of which you are custodians, to search for wise, farsighted solutions to the complex problems of our time, seeing them as difficulties, yes, but also as opportunities for growth and improvement. And what I am saying also concerns Italy in general and the whole of Europe.

Dear friends, I am particularly close to you and place into the hands of the Lord and Our Lady of Saint Luke, all your anxieties and worries. Let us turn to her with the prayer of the *Angelus*, she who is so

and help us to recognize the Lord in times of trial.

This Sunday marks the culmination of the week particularly dedicated to the Word of God, with yesterday's celebration of the commemoration of Saint Jerome, a great teacher of Holy Scripture. May we thank God for the gift of his Word and may we be committed to reading and meditating on the Bible, in particular, on the Gospel.

Lastly, let us join in spirit, the faithful gathered today at the Shrine of Pompeii for the traditional Prayer to Our Lady of the Rosary, presided by Cardinal Bassetti, President of the Italian Episcopal Conference.

I wish all the people of Bologna, locals and the "adopted" newcomers, a happy Sunday. Please do not forget to pray for me. Have a good lunch. *Arrivederci!*

In Cesena

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

that such criticism, "waiting for [one] to fail", is "not constructive".

Recognizing that Cesena, "as all of the Romagna region, traditionally has been an arena of heightened political passions", Francis invited the population to rediscover the "essential dimension of civil coexistence", by working together on initiatives and to find solutions to modern day problems, rather than by manoeuvring "to fill seats".

Everyone, particularly the young and the elderly, has the right to express their viewpoint on issues and to have them respected, the Pope affirmed.

Concluding his discourse, the Pope noted that the political sphere, faced by the "aggressiveness and pervasiveness of other forms of power" such as that wielded by the worlds of finance and the media, has seemed in recent years to have "retreated". What is needed instead, he stressed, is a "good" politics whose "independence" and interest in promoting the public good will work to reduce inequalities, promote concrete measures to help families, and to establish "a solid framework of rights and duties" which effectively balances the two.

Greeting families, young people and clergy at the Cathedral of Cesena, Pope Francis recalled that

"Jesus' wounds remain visible in the many men and women who live on the margins of society, even children: marked by suffering, need, abandonment and by poverty". Such people include those in prison and in hospital, the Pope said, and in coming close to them and tenderly caring for their corporal and spiritual wounds, "we can be purified and transformed by God's mercy".

Prayer, he insisted, "is the strength of our mission", and "constant encounter in prayer with the Lord becomes indispensable for priests and for consecrated persons, and for pastoral workers called to go forth from their "small garden" and to go towards the "existential peripheries". And in looking people in the eyes, with respect and love, the Pope said, we too can launch "a revolution of tenderness".

Recalling the upcoming Synod on young people, the Pope said "the Church counts very much on them and is aware of their great resources" and "they need to be helped to discover the gifts that the Lord has given them". He expressed the hope that by becoming engaged in actions of solidarity they may overcome "the conditioning of a subjective culture that exalts the self to the point of idolatry". He also urged greater dialogue between the young and the elderly, "whose vocation doesn't go

into retirement" even though they might be pensioners.

Turning his thoughts to the family, Pope Francis observed that this "basic cell of society" is undergoing challenging times, both as "an institution" and as "concrete families which are bearing much of the weight of the socio-economic crisis without receiving adequate support".

And, the Pope urged the clergy to not be "sad priests ... with pickled chili pepper faces" but to exude joy. Finally, the Pontiff invited all present to avoid gossip, "an act of terrorism" and "a bomb" that can destroy others. Rather, he urged them to be "courageous," and to speak out when there are misunderstandings in an effort to resolve differences.

In Bologna

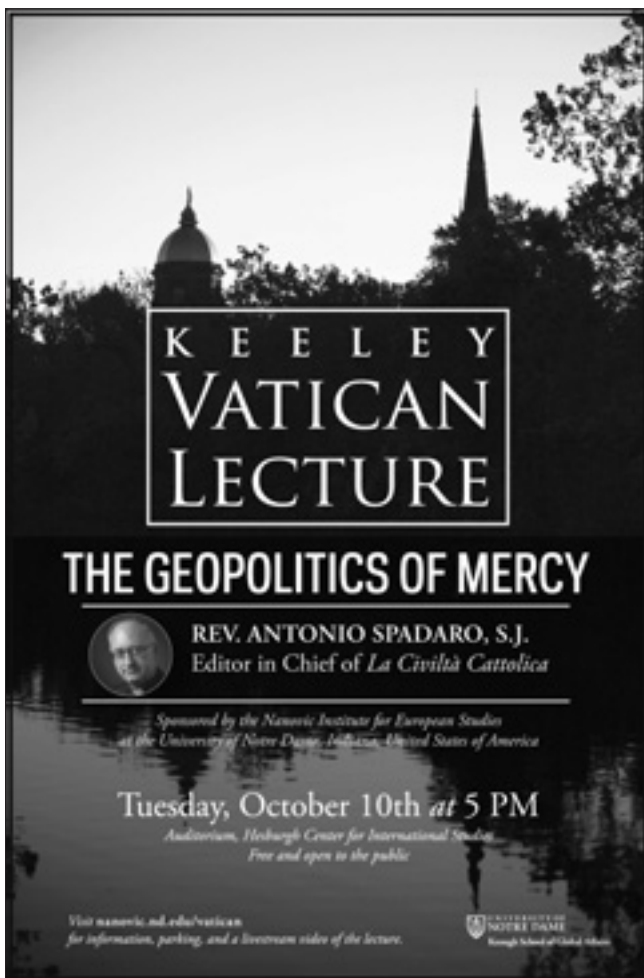
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

ing the Square, teeming with students, staff and faculty of the renowned University of Bologna, the Pope greeted them with the acknowledgement of the institution's nearly millennial history and its openness to students from across the globe. Calling the University a "laboratory of humanism", the Pope noted its dual mission has been to teach young people and to share its research for the common good. He then focused on three "rights" which he deems necessary for today's world: the "right to culture", the "right to hope" and the "right to peace". The right to culture, he stressed, does not simply include the "sacrosanct right" of all to receive an education, but also serves to safeguard a "human and humanizing" form of knowledge. Study, he said, is meant to challenge us and prevents us from becoming "anesthetized by the banal, to seek meaning in life". The Pope urged those present to respond to the "paralyzing litany of *cultural consumerism* with dynamic and powerful choices, with research, knowledge, and sharing". Those who promote "good culture", the Pope emphasized, are needed in today's context: "we need words that reach minds, and open hearts, not screams" that act like a punch in the stomach. Let us not, he added, be content with "pandering to the audience". Rather, he affirmed, we should passionately "dedicate ourselves to education" in order "to bring out the best in each person for the good of all". Faced with a "pseudoculture" that rejects man, the Pope called for a human-centered culture that recognizes merits and rewards sacrifice. The right to hope, the Pope said, is needed by the many people who today "experience loneliness and restlessness and feel the heavy air of abandonment". It is the right, he added, "to not be invaded daily by the rhetoric of fear and hatred" or to be overwhelmed by "disturbing and profitable false news". Limits, he said, should be placed on bad news stories and more space given to good news, "often silenced". It is the right, he stressed, of the young to grow up free of fear for the future and to know that life offers beautiful and lasting things. It is also the right to believe that true love "is not disposable" and that our labour "is not a mirage to achieve but for each of us, a promise that needs to be sustained". Encouraging universities to promote classrooms as

"building sites of hope", the Pope said these can be places where students learn to be "responsible for themselves and the world" and he urged them to become *artisans of hope*, responsible for the future of our common home. Finally, the Pope focused on the "right to peace" which he called a "duty inscribed in the heart of humanity". Referring to Europe's quest for unity, he noted how the two world wars, self-interest and conflict have obscured the vision of peace on the continent. "But please", he urged, "do not be afraid of unity!". Denouncing war as "useless massacre", he told young people to pursue paths of nonviolence and justice which foster peace and rather than be happy with small dreams, they should "dream big".

Before concluding his pastoral visit to Bologna, Pope Francis celebrated in the city's Renato Dall'Ara Stadium, a special Mass for the conclusion of the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress. In his homily, the Holy Father reflected on the Gospel narrative (Mt 21:28-32) which speaks of the man who sends his two sons out to work in the vineyards. Noting that there was a big difference between the two sons, the Pope said the one who refused to go was "lazy" while the other, who told his father he would go and then did not, was a "hypocrite". The story thus shows us two alternative routes, the Pope noted: while we may not always be prepared to say "yes" in our words and actions because we are sinners, we can choose to be "sinners on a journey", who continue to listen to the Lord, and when we fall, we repent and get back up, just like the first son. On the other hand, the Pope said, we can be "seated sinners", hypocrites always prepared to justify our actions, willing to do only what is convenient. We can be either *penitent sinners* or *hypocritical sinners*, the Pope observed. Understanding God's plan is a journey that requires humility for openness, for repentance, and to begin anew. In concluding his reflection, the Pope said Jesus is to be found in the Word: the compass that shows us the way of humble journeying; in the Bread of the Eucharist: the starting point of all; and in the poor — whether they be materially or spiritually impoverished. He concluded with a prayer that we not forget these forms of nourishment which sustain us on our journey.

The Holy Father returned to the Vatican by helicopter Sunday evening.



**KEELEY
VATICAN
LECTURE**

THE GEOPOLITICS OF MERCY

REV. ANTONIO SPADARO, S.J.
Editor in Chief of *La Civiltà Cattolica*

Sponsored by the *Nansen Institute for European Studies*
at the *University of Notre Dame, Indiana, United States of America*

Tuesday, October 10th at 5 PM
Auditorium, Herbargh Center for International Studies
Free and open to the public

Visit nansen.nd.edu/vatican
for information, parking, and a livestream video of the lecture.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
Herbargh School of Global Studies

Holy Father visits the Santa Lucia Foundation

Courage to look to the future

"That's the Pope, isn't it?": asked a young patient who was the first to notice Pope Francis' arrival on a surprise visit on 22 September to the Santa Lucia Foundation just outside downtown Rome. Resuming his "Mercy Friday" visits to express his closeness to the sick and those in difficulty, at 4 pm the Pope stepped out of his car in front of the institution which provides neuro-rehabilitation therapy to infants and young people suffering from a wide range of disabilities.

The Pontiff's unexpected presence caused a stir among the young patients and their families as well as the staff who were delighted that he had come to greet them.

Accompanied by Archbishop Rino Fisichella, Francis embraced each child, from newborns to adolescents, all receiving ther-

apies for cerebral palsy, cognitive disabilities, rare genetic and other disorders.

Health Director Antonino Salvia observed that "the Pope was very struck by the enthusiasm and the humanity of the people who are at Santa Lucia to provide treatment and to be treated". And, he added, "he also told me, 'continue in this way; give love'!"

Pope Francis exchanged a friendly word in Spanish with Miguel, an Ecuadorian patient under treatment for a spinal cord injury. He was accompanied by his wife and children. "I was in the gym doing therapy when I heard that the Pope had arrived", he said. "And my therapist immediately had me taken to meet him: his words have given courage to my whole family".

For more than an hour, the Pontiff listened to the concerns of the patients, families and staff and offered them words of encouragement. When news of the papal visit reached other wards, hundreds were able to welcome the Pope and receive his blessing: "Take courage; [you must] always look forward. I pray for you and you pray for me".

Before leaving the building, Francis stopped for a brief moment of prayer in the hospital's chapel and left a gift of an autographed copy of a book on the Jubilee.

Crowds had also gathered outside and, as the Pope was about to get into his vehicle to depart, an elderly man who had climbed



up on a wall to catch a glimpse of the Pontiff cried out to him, asking to take a selfie with him. Smiling, the Pope waited for the man to jump off the wall and make his way to him through the crowds.

The Santa Lucia Foundation hospital, explained the Health Director, has more than 300 beds and cares for in-house and out patients in need of neuro-rehabilitation following serious injury to the nervous system. Many young people, he noted, receive treatment there mostly after road accidents. Some have been in periods of coma and

"Dear Pope Francis, I cannot walk or talk. I know that in your prayers you always remember us and we always pray for you. I would very much like to get to know you better and introduce you to my friends who undergo therapy with me; will you come visit us?"

many must go through lengthy cycles of neuro-rehabilitation to overcome serious disabilities. Many others, he added, are undergoing treatment following a stroke or for neuro-degenerative disorders such as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Multiple Sclerosis.

The President of the Foundation, Maria Adriana Amadio and Director Edoardo Alesse joined the group to welcome the Holy Father. Daniela Morelli, chief of the rehabilitation unit for infants, accompanied Francis on the visit, explaining the details of the therapeutic activities underway which continued in the presence of the Pontiff. "I thanked the Pope for his gesture", she recounted, "but he quickly responded, 'It is I who thank you for all that you do'". She said she was particularly moved by Francis' "very intense gaze" when he asked them to pray for him. He also stressed during the visit that it is very important to hope in the future and to trust that scientific research will make great advances in this complex field of health.

The Papal visit possibly came in response to an invitation sent to him by little 6-year-old Gabriel who suffers from a rare condition which prevents him from talking and making gestures. Gabriel's letter was composed of small images which he has learned to use as part of an "alternative" communic-

ation technique to make himself understood.

crowds had also gathered outside and, as the Pope was about to get into his vehicle to depart, an elderly man who had climbed



Pope Francis recalls the community's charisma

Sisters to all

"The fellowship you experience with each other opens your hearts to fraternity towards everyone". Speaking to participants of the 11th General Chapter of the Little Sisters of Jesus on Monday morning, 2 October, in the Consistory Hall, Pope Francis reminded the Sisters to proclaim the Gospel with a simple life made up of work, presence, friendship and unconditional hospitality. The following is a translation of the Pope's address, which was given in Italian.

Dear Sisters,

I am happy to welcome you on the occasion of your General Chapter. I greet the Superior General and, through you, all the Little Sisters of Jesus.

The celebration of a General Chapter is a time of grace for every institute of consecrated life. In a climate of prayer and fraternal affection, the religious come together to listen to the Holy Spirit, to face together the many questions and challenges that the institute faces at a pre-

Inspired by Blessed Charles de Foucauld, Magdeleine Hutin – a Frenchwoman later known as Little Sister Magdeleine of Jesus – founded the Little Sisters of Jesus in Algeria in 1939, sharing the lives of mainly Muslim nomads. As the order grew and spread to other countries, the sisters shared the lives of other communities of poor people

cise time in its history. However, before being a moment of reflection on practical matters, a Chapter is the common spiritual experience of a return to the source of the call, both the personal and the community one.

And at the source of your institute is the overwhelming experience of God's tenderness experienced by your Foundress, Little Sister Magdeleine of Jesus. In the footsteps of Blessed Charles de Foucauld, she perceived that Almighty God, Cre-

ator and Lord of the Universe was not afraid to be a small, trusting child in Mary's arms out of love for us, and he still wants to give Himself humbly to each of us, for love. Today, almost 80 years after the founding of the Institute, there are more than 1,000 Little Sisters around the world. They are in humanly difficult situations, with the littlest and the poorest. They are not primarily there to heal, educate and catechize – though they do these things well – but to love, to be with the littlest ones, just as Jesus did, to proclaim the Gospel with the simple life of work, presence, friendship and unconditional welcome. It is important, of vital importance, that you return continually to this original experience of the closeness of God, who offers himself meekly and humbly to us in order to save us and fill us with His love. And this love of God must express itself more in the gestures of evangelization than in words: a smile, silence, adoration, patience. I remember that dialogue between the oak and the almond tree. The oak said to the almond tree, "Tell me about God", and the almond tree blossomed. This is what the Church asks of you: to blossom, to flourish in the gestures of God's love.

Above all, dear sisters, be sure to keep your spiritual life fervent, for it is from this love,



received from God in an incessant and ever-new way, that your love for your brothers and sisters overflows. It is this spiritual life that young people thirst for, and this allows them to respond in turn to the Lord's invitation. It is from this spiritual life that the evangelical witness that the poor long for, springs forth. The recipes may be useful, but later; if this is not present, they have no effect.

Do not be afraid to go ahead, bringing the little Child Jesus into your hearts, in all the places where the littlest of our world are present. Stay free from bonds with works and things, free to love those you encounter wherever the Spirit leads you. Free to fly, free to dream. The difficulties of the present time make you share the sorrows of so many brothers and sisters: with them, you too sometimes find yourself forced to close or abandon your homes to flee elsewhere; you too know the trials of age, solitude and suffering; you too experience the harshness of the journey when you must remain faithful while crossing the desert. But in all this, the love you bear in your hearts makes you free women attached to the essentials.

Hold dear the quality of fraternal life in your communities. Despite difficulties, in following Jesus, poor among the poor, Little Sister Magdeleine, found true joy, a joy she shared with everyone, beginning with her sisters. Simplicity and joy belong to consecrated life, and in a special way to yours. The Child Jesus was joyful in Nazareth; He certainly played and laughed with Mary and Joseph, with children of his age and with neighbours. To rediscover the taste of community life, you must always search for simplicity, affection, thoughtfulness, service, and wonder.

It is from this fraternity among you that the service of authority is born. The exercise of responsibility in the Church is rooted in the common and fraternal will to listen to the Lord, to place oneself in His school and to live in his Spirit so that his Kingdom can extend to all hearts. It is in this context of common and fraternal listen-

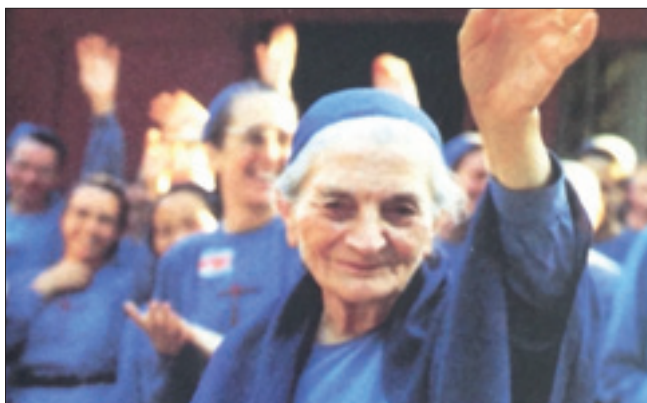


ing that dialogue and obedience can find their place. And in such obedience, like the Child Jesus, all the Little Sisters will grow "in wisdom and in stature, and in favour with God and man" (Lk 2:52).

The fellowship you experience with each other opens your hearts to fraternity towards everyone. Your Foundress invited you to become "Arabs among the Arabs, nomads among nomads, workers among workers and, above all, human beings among humans" (Annie de Jésus, *Petite soeur Magdeleine de Jésus: L'expérience de Bethléem jusqu'aux confins du monde*, Cerf, 2008, p. 184). Luna Park workers among Luna Park workers, [amusement park workers] like those here in Rome. And so the Institute has spread to many countries and you have met many of these little ones, of all races, languages and religions. Your hearts have no barriers. Of course, you cannot change the world by yourselves, but you can illuminate it by bringing the joy of the Gospel to the neighbourhoods, the streets, mixing with the crowds, always close to the littlest.

Since you are among the little ones that the Blessed Virgin presents to her Son Jesus, our Lord, you can count on her maternal intercession, as well as on the Church's prayer for your Institute, especially during this General Chapter.

Thank you very much, thank you for your visit, and I ask you to please pray for me. Thank you.



Little Sister Magdeleine of Jesus