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PRINT EDITION » **CULTURE OF LIFE**

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'Life Is Always Sacred'

Pope Francis on the dignity of human life.

BY THE EDITORS, REGISTER CORRESPONDENT Monday, Oct 14, 2013 2:40 PM [Comment](#)

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On Sept. 20, Pope Francis met with members of the International Federation of Catholic Medical Associations and encouraged obstetricians to defend life, as Catholic News Agency reported.

"Life is always sacred and always of quality. And not as a matter of faith, but of reason and science," the Pope said.

"Each one of us is invited to recognize in the fragile human being the face of the Lord, who, in his human flesh, experienced the indifference and loneliness to which we often condemn the poorest, either in the developing nations or in the developed societies," he also said. "Each child that is unborn, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, bears the face of Jesus Christ, bears the face of the Lord, who, even before he was born, and then as soon as he was born, experienced the rejection of the world."

He added: "And each old person, even if infirm or at the end of his days, bears the face of Christ. They cannot be discarded, as the 'culture of waste' proposes. They cannot be discarded."

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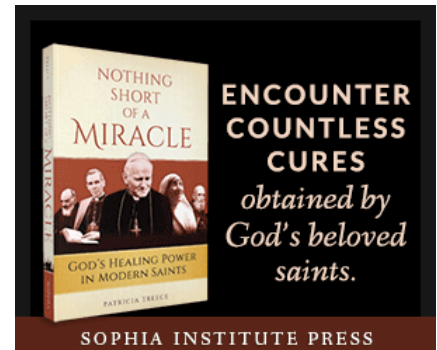
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Pope Francis: Abortion 'cries out in vengeance to God'; Church will never change teaching

BY JOHN-HENRY WESTEN

Tue Nov 26, 2013 10:31 EST

Tags: Abortion, Pope Francis

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VATICAN CITY, November 26, 2013 (LifeSiteNews.com) – In a high level teaching document released this morning, Pope Francis has firmly responded to those who have expressed hope that the Catholic Church may one day change its teachings on abortion, writing, “the Church cannot be expected to change her position on this question.”

“I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or ‘modernizations’,” he added.

Entitled “*Evangelii Gaudium*” (The Joy of the Gospel), the Apostolic Exhortation – a document which, while important, is of less weight than an encyclical - noted, “Among the vulnerable for whom the Church wishes to care with particular love and concern are unborn children, the most defenceless and innocent among us.”

He lamented that, “Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this.”

“Frequently, as a way of ridiculing the Church’s effort to defend their lives, attempts are made to present her position as ideological, obscurantist and conservative. Yet this defence of unborn life is closely linked to the defence of each and every other human right.”

“It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development,” he said. “Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defence of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be.”

The [document](#) marks the pope's most in-depth discussion of abortion since his election.

The pope added that it is important to do more to more to “accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing within them is the result of rape or a situation of extreme poverty.”

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“I want to be completely honest in this regard. This is not something subject to alleged reforms or ‘modernizations’,” the pope said.

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The Holy Father stated that the truth about human life can be discovered with reason alone, but from a faith perspective the gravity of the evil of abortion is manifest.

"Reason alone is sufficient to recognize the inviolable value of each single human life, but if we also look at the issue from the standpoint of faith, 'every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offence against the creator of the individual,'" he said, quoting a previous Apostolic Exhortation by Pope John Paul II.

In [previous remarks in September](#), the pope had condemned abortion as a manifestation of a "throwaway culture."

"Every unborn child, though unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of the Lord, who even before his birth, and then as soon as he was born, experienced the rejection of the world," the pope said at the time.

In a [recent homily](#), seen by some Vatican watchers as wake up call to liberal Catholics to abandon hopes of Pope Francis altering Church teaching on abortion and contraception, he warned against the desire to "be like everyone else" and what he called an "adolescent progressivism". "Lord," the pope prayed, "give me the discernment to recognize the subtle conspiracies of worldliness that lead us to negotiate our values and our faith."

Similarly, in *Evangelii Gaudium* Pope Francis writes, "It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life."



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Jordan Miller · 19 days ago

Have not been able to read the whole thing yet, but this Apostolic Exhortation seems monumental, a plan of action not only for this pontificate but for this new century. Even reading a few summaries of the document gets me fired up. Very exciting; the whole feel of it is a call to arms, a rallying cry for preaching the Gospel to everyone on earth.

Wonder if the media will report on this very clear teaching regarding abortion?

44 ^ | ▾ · Share ▸



Doris geddes → Jordan Miller · 14 days ago

No they Won't because it is not what they want to hear and so many people will

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'Evangelii Gaudium': Church's Teaching on Abortion Cannot Change (2008)

The Holy Father said solving problems by taking a human life is not "progressive," but stressed the Church could do more to help mothers in crisis.

BY CNA/EWTN NEWS 11/26/2013 Comments (2)

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VATICAN CITY — In his first apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel), Pope Francis explained that the Church can never change its teaching on abortion, which is part of a broader understanding of human dignity.

At the same time, he said in the document released Nov. 26, the Church must increase efforts to "accompany" women in difficult pregnancies.

"Precisely because this involves the internal consistency of our message about the value of the human person, the Church cannot be expected to change her position on this question," the Pope said of abortion.

"I want to be completely honest in this regard," he said.

"This is not something subject to alleged reforms or 'modernizations.' It is not 'progressive' to try to resolve problems by eliminating a human life."

"On the other hand, it is also true that we have done little to adequately accompany women in very difficult situations, where abortion appears as a quick solution to their profound anguish, especially when the life developing within them is the result of rape or a situation of extreme poverty," he said.

The apostolic exhortation is the fruit of the 2012 bishops' synod on the new evangelization, which was held as part of the Year of Faith.



— Anna Langova



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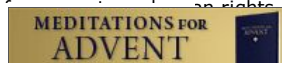
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'The Most Defenseless and Innocent Among Us'



defenseless and innocent among us."

"Nowadays efforts are made to deny them their human dignity and to do with them whatever one pleases, taking their lives and passing laws preventing anyone from standing in the way of this," Pope Francis said.

While the Church's defense of life is often presented as an "ideological, obscurantist and conservative" position, he said, "this defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right."

"It involves the conviction that a human being is always sacred and inviolable, in any situation and at every stage of development," he said.

"Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems," Pope Francis added.

He said, "Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defense of

human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be."

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Posted by Ify on Wednesday, Nov 27, 2013 12:56 AM (EST):

So what is the church's teaching regarding a pregnancy that is a danger to the woman's life?

Posted by David Rummelhoff on Wednesday, Nov 27, 2013 4:02 PM (EST):

The death of a fetus resulting accidentally from a procedure meant to preserve the woman's life, as in cases of ectopic pregnancy, does not constitute murder, precisely because there was no intention of killing the child.

Pope Francis doesn't go into that stuff in the exhortation—it has been addressed in a thousand other places—but you could still benefit from reading the whole thing.

You can download an ebook version to read while traveling or chilling this weekend:

<http://sperolaus.com/2013/11/download-evangelii-gaudium-ereaders-etc-mobi-epub-pdf-docx/>

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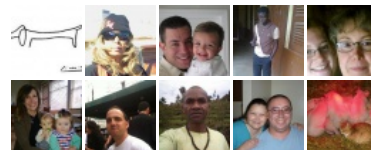
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