

Quotes from Pope Francis

Americans of all backgrounds are listening closely to a Pope who puts human dignity and the common good before a profit-first mentality. Here's a sample of his teachings on these topics.

"A good Catholic meddles in politics." (9/16/13)

"A just economy must create the conditions for everyone to be able to enjoy a childhood without want, to develop their talents when young, to work with full rights during their active years and to enjoy a dignified retirement as they grow older." (7/9/2015)

"Poverty in the world is a scandal. In a world where there is so much wealth, so many resources to feed everyone, it is unfathomable that there are so many hungry children, that there are so many children without an education, so many poor persons. Poverty today is a cry." (6/7/13)

"Unemployment -- the lack or loss of work -- is a phenomenon that is spreading like an oil slick in vast areas of the west and is alarmingly widening the boundaries of poverty. Moreover there is no worse material poverty, I am keen to stress, than the poverty which prevents people from earning their bread and deprives them of the dignity of work." (5/25/13)

"May we never get used to the poverty and decay around us. A Christian must act." (4/3/14)

"The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love." (6/2/13)

"Inequality is the root of social evil." (4/28/14)

"A way has to be found to enable everyone to benefit from the fruits of the earth, and not simply to close the gap between the affluent and those who must be satisfied with the crumbs falling from the table, but above all to satisfy the demands of justice, fairness and respect for every human being." (6/20/13)

"How I would like a church that is poor and for the poor." (3/16/13)

"How can it be that it is not a news item when an elderly homeless person dies of exposure, but it is news when the stock market loses two points? This is a case of exclusion." (11/23/13)

"Just as the commandment 'Thou shalt not kill' sets a clear limit in order to safeguard the value of human life, today we also have to say 'thou shalt not' to an economy of exclusion and inequality. Such an economy kills." (11/23/13)

"I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be 'protectors' of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment." (3/19/13)

Quotes from Pope Francis, continued:

"Every worker, be he or not in the formal system of salaried work, has the right to fitting remuneration, to social security and to retirement coverage. Here there are...workers in popular jobs who are excluded from labor rights, who are denied the possibility of joining labor unions, who have no adequate and stable income. Today I want to join my voice to yours and support you in your struggle." (10/28/14)

"Solidarity with migrants and refugees must be accompanied by the courage and creativity necessary to develop, on a worldwide level, a more just and equitable financial and economic order, as well as an increasing commitment to peace, the indispensable condition for all authentic progress." (9/3/14)

"Please, let us fight for this: the justice of work." (3/25/15)

"Dear friends, let us not forget the flesh of Christ which is in the flesh of refugees: their flesh is the flesh of Christ. It is also your task to direct all the institutions working in the area of forced migration to new forms of co-responsibility." (5/24/13)

"I would like to ask you all to see a ray of hope as well in the eyes and hearts of refugees and of those who have been forcibly displaced. A hope that is expressed in expectations for the future, in the desire for friendship, in the wish to participate in the host society also through learning the language, access to employment and the education of children...We can and must all nourish this hope!" (5/24/13)

"The Earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth. In many parts of the planet, the elderly lament that once beautiful landscapes are now covered with rubbish." (6/18/15)

"We are not God. The Earth was here before us and was given to us." (6/18/15)

"The idea of infinite or unlimited growth, which proves so attractive to economists, financiers and experts in technology...is based on the lie that there is an infinite supply of the earth's goods, and this leads to the planet being squeezed dry at every limit." (6/18/15)

"Yet all is not lost. Human beings, while capable of the worst, are also capable of rising above themselves, choosing again what is good, and making a new start." (6/18/15)

"Human beings are themselves considered consumer goods to be used and then discarded. We have created a 'throw away' culture which is now spreading." (11/23/13)

"We do not get dignity from power or money or culture. We get dignity from work." (5/1/13)

"Not paying a just [wage], not providing work, focusing exclusively on the balance books, on financial statements, only looking at making personal profit. That goes against God!" (5/1/13)

"The future of humanity does not lie solely in the hands of great leaders, the great powers and the elites. It is fundamentally in the hands of peoples and in their ability to organize. It is in their hands, which can guide with humility and conviction this process of change. I am with you." (7/9/15)

"Do we realize that something is wrong in a world where there are so many farm workers without land, so many families without a home, so many laborers without rights, so many persons whose dignity is not respected? ...So let's not be afraid to say it: we need change; we want change." (7/9/15)