



## PONDERING THE WISDOM OF PAPA FRANCESCO

The following excerpts are from the daily mass homilies of Pope Francis. [www.news.va/en](http://www.news.va/en) and the *Missio* app for digital devices

“Your fidelity to the Church still needs you to stand strong against the hypocrisies that result from a closed and sick heart.

But your main task isn't to build walls, but bridges. It is to establish a dialogue with all persons, even those who don't share the Christian faith but who cultivate outstanding qualities of the human spirit and even with those who oppress the Church and harass her in manifold ways. ... Through dialogue it is always possible to get closer to the truth, which is a gift of God, and to enrich one another. Dialogue means being convinced that the other has something good to say, making room for their point of view, their opinion, their proposals, without falling, of course, into relativism. For dialogue to exist, it is necessary to lower the defenses and open the doors.”

*June 14, 2013*

“Keeping the Word of God: what does this mean? Do I receive the Word, and then take a bottle and put the word into the bottle and keep it there? No. Keeping the Word of God means that our heart opens, it is open to that Word just like the earth opens to receive the seed. The Word of God is a seed and is sown. And Jesus told us what happens with the seeds: some fall along the path, and the birds come and eat them; this Word is not kept, these hearts do not know how to receive it.”

*June 8, 2013*

“A God who draws near out of love, walks with His people, and this walk comes to an unimaginable point. We could never have imagined that the same Lord would become one of us and walk with us, be present with us, present in His Church, present in the Eucharist, present in His Word, present in the poor; He is present, walking with us. And this is closeness: the shepherd close to his flock, close to his sheep, whom he knows, one by one. ”

“Tenderness! But the Lord loves us tenderly. The Lord knows that beautiful science of caresses, the tenderness of God. He does not love us with words. He comes close - closeness - and gives us His love with tenderness. Closeness and tenderness! The Lord loves us in these two ways, He draws near and gives all His love even in the smallest things: with tenderness. And this is a powerful love, because closeness and tenderness reveal the strength of God's love.”

*June 7, 2013*

“A few days ago, on the Feast of Corpus Christi, we read the story of the miracle of the loaves: Jesus feeds the crowd with five loaves and two fishes. And the conclusion of the piece is important: " They all ate and were satisfied. And when the leftover fragments were picked up, they filled twelve wicker baskets" (Lk 9:17). Jesus asks his disciples not to throw anything away: no waste! There is this fact of twelve baskets: Why twelve? What does this mean? Twelve is the number of the tribes of Israel, which symbolically represent all people. And this tells us that when food is shared in a fair way, with solidarity, when no one is deprived, every community can meet the needs of the poorest. Human ecology and environmental ecology walk together.

So I would like us all to make a serious commitment to respect and protect creation, to be attentive to every person, to counter the culture of waste and disposable, to promote a culture of solidarity and of encounter.”

*June 5, 2013*

“There is a danger of idolatry: idolatry, which is brought to us through the spirit of the world. And in this Jesus was clear: the spirit of the world, no. At the Last Supper he asks the Father to defend us from the spirit of the world, because the spirit of the world leads us to idolatry.

Idolatry is subtle...we all have our hidden idols and the path of life to follow, to not be far from the kingdom of God, involves discovering our hidden idols.”

*May 6, 2013*

“It's the Spirit that guides us: He is the author of joy, the Creator of joy. And this joy in the Holy Spirit gives us true Christian freedom. Without joy, we Christians cannot become free, we become slaves to our sorrows. The great Paul VI said that you cannot advance the Gospel with sad, hopeless, discouraged Christians. You cannot. A certain mournful behavior, no? Often Christians behave as if they were going to a funeral procession rather than to praise God, no? And this joy comes from praise, Mary's praise, this praise that Zephaniah speaks of, Simeon and Anna's praise: this praise of God!”

*May 5, 2013*

“War is madness. It is the suicide of humanity. It is an act of faith in money, which for the powerful of the earth is more important than the human being.”

*March 5, 2016*