

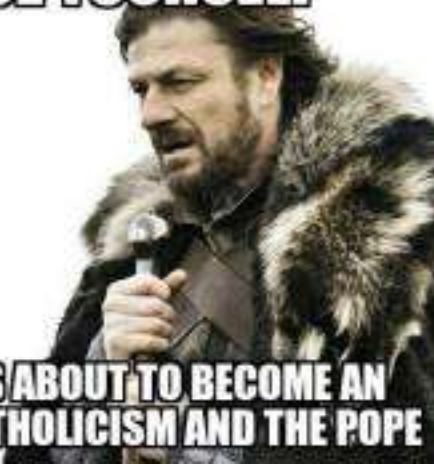


Inside the Vatican:

Pope Francis in the U.S.:
The Cross a failure?

Pope in Congress

BRACE YOURSELF



**EVERYONE IS ABOUT TO BECOME AN
EXPERT ON CATHOLICISM AND THE POPE**

- Our response must instead be one of hope and healing, of peace and justice.
 - Warning not to look solely at ourselves but to those in need
- We need to avoid a common temptation nowadays: to discard whatever proves troublesome. Let us remember the Golden Rule: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you” (Mt 7:12).
 - Discussing the Refugees of Syria
- “We need to face them together, to talk about them and to seek effective solutions rather than getting bogged down in discussions.”
 - On problems of domestic violence

Homily at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Philadelphia



- Faith grows in the Spirit
 - “Faith opens a ‘window’ to the presence and working of the Spirit. It shows us that, like happiness, holiness is always tied to little gestures.”
- Don’t hold back little miracles
 - “Little signs of love”
 - “Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home. Faith grows when it is lived and shaped by love.”
- Jesus wants us all to be prophets
 - To preach the Gospel without shame
 - “May God grant to all of us, as the Lord’s disciples, the grace to be worthy of this purity of heart which is not scandalized by the Gospel!”

“...the failure of the cross”



- Context:
 - Value of apostolic work is in God's eyes
 - The cross shows us a different way of measuring success
- Full Quote:

“And if at times our efforts and works seem to fail and produce no fruit, we need to remember that we are followers of Jesus... and his life, **humanly speaking**, ended in failure, in the failure of the cross.”

 - It was always God's plan for Jesus to die on the cross
 - People believed Messiah would liberate Jews from Roman authority which He did not so **humanly speaking** Jesus failed to live up the expectations of the Jews
- From God's perspective Jesus did exactly what he was supposed to do

Pope Francis' Humility



- When the plane leaves after a visit, I see the faces of so many people. I get the urge to pray for them and say to the Lord, ‘I came here to do something, to do good, perhaps I have done wrong, forgive me but protect all those people who saw me, who thought of what I said, who heard me, even those who have criticized me, all of them.’ That is what I feel.”
- When asked about his popularity he stated he is to be the “servant of the servants of God.”

Controversial Canonization of Junipero Serra



- Spanish missionary in 18th century
 - First saint to be canonized on U.S. soil
 - Franciscan friar
 - Started several missions in California
 - Converted many Native Americans
- Many Native Americans angered/frustrated by canonization
 - Claim Serra was in part responsible for the mass genocide of Native Americans
- Pope's defense
 - "He sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had mistreated and abused it."

Praise for the American Church



- Impressed by the piety of people
 - The church's challenge is staying close to the people ... not being a detached church. This is something that the church in America has understood and understood well.”
- Love of the American Nuns
 - “The people of the United States love the sisters. I don't know how much they may love the priests, but they love the sisters, they love them so much. They are great women.”
 - Pope Francis reiterated female priests are still NOT a possibility

Growing Points for the American Church



- American church needs to better prepare couples for marriage
 - Better preparation will close the door to divorce
- Conscientious objection
 - Basic human right that should be included in the decisions of congress and the American church
- Priest Scandal
 - Those who covered it up are guilty

Verdict: Trip to America...



Success!!!!