

POPE FRANCIS

❖ IN THE U.S. ❖



WORDS OF MERCY

❖ AND HOPE ❖

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WORDS OF MERCY AND HOPE

Introduced and compiled
by Marianne Lorraine Trouvé, FSP



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List of Abbreviations

BCR Holy Mass with Bishops, Clergy, and Religious of Pennsylvania, *Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul, Philadelphia, Saturday, September 26, 2015*

CFC Visit to Detainees at Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility, *Philadelphia, Sunday, September 27, 2015*

GOV Greeting to the Organizers, Volunteers, and Benefactors of the World Meeting of Families, *Philadelphia International Airport, Sunday, September 27, 2015*

GZM Interreligious Meeting, *Ground Zero Memorial, New York, Friday, September 25, 2015*

IMP Meeting for Religious Liberty with the Hispanic Community and Other Immigrants, *Independence Mall, Philadelphia, Saturday, September 26, 2015*

JSW Holy Mass and Canonization of Saint Junípero Serra, *National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., Wednesday, September 23, 2015*

MBP Meeting with Bishops Taking Part in the World Meeting of Families, *Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Chapel of Saint Martin, Philadelphia, Sunday, September 27, 2015*

MBW Meeting with the Bishops of the United States of America, *Cathedral of Saint Matthew, Washington, D.C., Wednesday, September 23, 2015*

MSG Holy Mass, *Madison Square Garden, New York, Friday, September 25, 2015*

MWM Closing Mass of the Eighth World Meeting of Families, *Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Sunday, September 27, 2015*

- OLQ Meeting with Children and Immigrant Families, *Our Lady, Queen of Angels School, Harlem, New York, Friday, September 25, 2015*
- PVF Prayer Vigil for the Festival of Families, *Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, Saturday, September 26, 2015*
- SPW Visit to the Charitable Center of Saint Patrick Parish and Meeting with the Homeless, *Saint Patrick in the City, Washington, D.C., Thursday, September 24, 2015*
- UNO Meeting with the Members of the General Assembly of the United Nations Organization, *United Nations Headquarters, New York, Friday, September 25, 2015*
- USC Visit to the Joint Session of the United States Congress, *United States Capitol, Washington, D.C., Thursday, September 24, 2015*
- VPR Vespers with Priests and Religious, *Saint Patrick's Cathedral, New York, Thursday, September 24, 2015*

VSA Meeting with Victims of Sexual Abuse,
*Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, Philadelphia, Sun-
day, September 27, 2015*

WCW Welcoming Ceremony, *South Lawn of the
White House, Washington, D.C., Wednesday, September
23, 2015*





Introduction

POPE FRANCIS came to America with a message of faith, mercy, and hope. From September 22 to 27, 2015, he visited Washington, D.C.; New York City; and Philadelphia. Francis was the first pope to address a joint session of Congress. He also spoke at the United Nations and shared his concerns with leaders from all over the world.

What are his concerns? He brought up the causes that are especially close to his heart, such as respect for human life in all stages; serving the poor and immigrants; the importance of the family, peace, religious freedom, mission, and Christian witness; and care for the earth as our

home. He knew how to adapt his message to the varied audiences he addressed—from Congress to the homeless, from the U.N. to inmates at a Philadelphia prison, from bishops to school children.

The purpose of this volume is to present the message of Pope Francis in a way best adapted to individual readers. It does not focus so much on the bigger issues of policy for the nation and the world, but how we as Christians can make the Gospel fruitful in our lives today. Excerpts were selected from his various addresses with a view to his personal appeal to each one of us and arranged by themes. Pope Francis often speaks in a very simple way, a way that most people can easily relate to. He's not asking us to do anything extraordinary, but simply to fully live the commitment of our Baptism. If each one of us did that, the Church and the world would be radically changed for the good.



God at Our Side



THE HEART of the Pope expands to include everyone. To testify to the immensity of God's love is the heart of the mission entrusted to the Successor of Peter, the Vicar of the One who on the cross embraced the whole of mankind. May no member of Christ's Body or the American people feel excluded from the Pope's embrace. Wherever the name of Jesus is spoken, may the Pope's voice also be heard to affirm that: "*He is the Savior!*"

MBW



TO THIS end, it is important that the Church in the United States also be a humble home, a family fire that attracts men and women through the attractive light and warmth of love.

MBW



MAY THE forthcoming Holy Year of Mercy, by drawing us into the fathomless depths of God's heart in which no division dwells, be for all of you a privileged moment for strengthening communion, perfecting unity, reconciling differences, forgiving one another, and healing every rift, that your light may shine forth like "*a city built on a hill*" (Mt 5:14).

MBW



WE NEED to learn from Jesus, or better [yet] to learn Jesus, meek and humble; to enter into his meekness and his humility by contemplating his way of acting.

MBW



REJOICE IN the Lord always! I say it again, rejoice! . . . Something deep within us invites us to rejoice and tells us not to settle for placebos that always keep us comfortable.

JSW



WE ALL know the struggles of everyday life. So much seems to stand in the way of this invitation to rejoice. Our daily routine can often lead us to a kind of glum apathy that gradually becomes a habit, with a fatal consequence: our hearts grow numb.

JSW



WE DON'T want apathy to guide our lives . . . or do we? We don't want the force of habit to rule our lives . . . or do we? So we ought to ask ourselves: What can we do to keep our hearts from growing numb, becoming anesthetized? How do we make the joy of the Gospel increase and take deeper root in our lives?

JSW



JOSEPH WAS someone who asked questions. But first and foremost, he was a man of faith. Faith gave Joseph the power to find light just at the moment when everything seemed dark. Faith sustained him amid the troubles of life. Thanks to faith, Joseph was able to press forward when everything seemed to be holding him back.

SPW



FAITH MAKES us know that God is at our side, that God is in our midst, and his presence spurs us to charity. Charity is born of the call of a God who continues to knock on our door, the door of all people, to invite us to love, to compassion, to service of one another.

SPW



JESUS KEEPS knocking on our doors, the doors of our lives. He doesn't do this by magic, with special effects, with flashing lights and fireworks. Jesus keeps knocking on our doors in the faces of our brothers and sisters, in the faces of our neighbors, in the faces of those at our side.

SPW



DEAR FRIENDS, one of the most effective ways we have to help is that of prayer. Prayer unites us; it makes us brothers and sisters. It opens our hearts and reminds us of a beautiful truth we sometimes forget. In prayer, we all learn to say “Father,” “Dad.” And when we say “Father,” “Dad,” we learn to see one another as brothers and sisters. In prayer, there are no rich or poor; there are sons and daughters, sisters and brothers. In prayer, there is no first or second class; there is brotherhood.

SPW



IN PRAYER, our hearts find the strength not to be cold and insensitive in the face of situations of

injustice. In prayer, God keeps calling us, opening our hearts to charity.

SPW



HOW GOOD it is for us to pray together.

SPW



JOY SPRINGS from a grateful heart. Truly, we have received much, so many graces, so many blessings, and we rejoice in this. It will do us good to think back on our lives with the grace of remembrance.

VPR

