

Twenty-Five Acts of Public Witness against Abortion in Two Years of Francis' Pontificate

May 12, 2013 – During a canonization celebration Pope Francis urges political leaders to “guarantee the legal protection of the embryo” in a manner that “protects all human life from the first moment of its existence.” He also urges his audience to “keep alive the focus on such a crucial theme as respecting life from the moment of conception.”

May 15, 2013 – The Pope issues the following statement on Twitter ““It is God who gives life. Let us respect and love human life, especially vulnerable life in a mother’s womb.”

June 16, 2013 – In a Mass celebrating *Evangelium Vitae*, Pope Francis reiterates the Church’s condemnation of abortion, saying ““All too often, as we know from experience, people do not choose life, they do not accept the ‘Gospel of Life’ but let themselves be led by ideologies and ways of thinking that block life, that do not respect life, because they are dictated by selfishness, self-interest, profit, power and pleasure, and not by love, by concern for the good of others.”

July 19, 2013 – Pope Francis sends a public letter to the Knights of Columbus urging them to “bear witness to the authentic nature of marriage and the family, the sanctity and inviolable dignity of human life, and the beauty and truth of human sexuality.”

July 28, 2013 – Pope Francis issues the following statement of encouragement to those in Britain and Ireland celebrating the Day of Life: “All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”

August 6, 2013 – In his letter marking National Family Week in Brazil, Pope Francis writes, “Human life must always be defended from its beginning in the womb and must be recognized as a gift of God that guarantees the future of humanity.”

September 19, 2013 – In a speech to Catholic gynecologists, Pope Francis condemns abortion, calling it a symptom of our “throw-away culture” and saying, “Every child that isn’t born, but is unjustly condemned to be aborted, has the face of Jesus Christ, has the face of the Lord.”

October 4, 2013 – In a speech to the World Council of Churches, Pope Francis condemns abortion, saying ““We are called to reach out to those who find themselves in the existential peripheries of our societies and to show particular solidarity with the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters: the poor, the disabled, the unborn and the sick, migrants and refugees, the elderly and the young who lack employment.”

November 17, 2013 – In his homily at St. Martha’s, Pope Francis chides progressive Catholics for the “human sacrifices” they are willing to make for the “apostasy of conforming to the secular world.”

November 25, 2013 – Pope Francis releases an Apostolic Exhortation, “*Evangelii Gaudium*” which condemns abortion repeatedly, saying that the “defense of unborn life is closely linked to the defense of each and every other human right.” He also adds that “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,” quoting a previous Apostolic Exhortation by Pope John Paul II.

December 7, 2013 – In a speech to the Dignitatis Humanae Institute, Pope Francis condemns abortion, saying, “The victims of this [throwaway] culture are precisely the weakest and most fragile human beings – the unborn, the poorest, the sick and elderly, the seriously handicapped, etc. – who are in danger of being ‘thrown away’, expelled from a system that must be efficient at all costs.”

January 12, 2014 – In his “State of the World” speech at the Vatican, Pope Francis condemns abortion, saying, “it is horrific even to think that there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day”.

January 19, 2014 – Pope Francis sends a message of encouragement to those participating in the March for Life in France, saying “Let’s say “Yes” to life and “No” to death.”

March ?, 2014 – In an address to the Commission for Latin America, Pope Francis condemns abortion, saying "Nowadays, on account of the economic system that has taken root in the world, which has at its center the god of money and not the human person, everything is ordered according to this logic, and anything that does not fit within this order is discarded. Children are discarded, when their existence is troublesome or unwanted. The Spanish bishops recently spoke to me about the number of abortions, and I was left speechless.”

March 27, 2014 – A Vatican press release states that one of the main topics of conversation between Pope Francis and President Obama was the Pope’s objection to abortion. The Pope presented Obama with his apostolic exhortation as a gift, which contains a number of passages condemning the practice.

April 6, 2014 – Vatican Radio reports that Pope Francis met with former prisoners and drug addicts and lamented the culture of waste, using as an example “the killing of unborn children in their mother’s womb.”

April 11, 2014 – In a meeting with Italy’s anti-abortion leaders, Pope Francis condemns abortion, calling it among other things “an unspeakable crime.”

April 25, 2014 – In a statement to an audience of bishops from South Africa, Botswana and Swaziland, Pope Francis condemns abortion. He says “abortion compounds the grief of many women who now carry with them deep physical and spiritual wounds after succumbing to the pressures of a secular culture which devalues God’s gift of sexuality and the right to life of the unborn.”

August 15, 2014 – In his visit to South Korea, Pope Francis makes a stop to publicly pray in front of a monument to those killed by abortion.

November 14, 2014 – In an address celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Italian Catholic Doctors Association, Pope Francis condemns abortion, saying that it isn’t just a religious objection but “a scientific problem, because there is a human life and it’s not lawful to take a human life to solve a problem.

January 18, 2015 – At his “Encounter with Families” speech in the Philippines, Pope Francis condemns abortion, telling the audience “Be sanctuaries of respect for life, proclaiming the sacredness of every human life from conception to natural death.”

May 28, 2015 – In an interview with the Argentinian newspaper *Voice of the People*, Pope Francis condemns abortion, pointing out the terrible paradox of countries with greater and greater protections against child abuse, that nevertheless still allow for the killing of the unborn.

May 30, 2015 – In an address to the Science and Life Association, Pope Francis says that the “scourge of abortion is an attack on life itself.”

June 2, 2015 – In an address to seriously ill children and their parents, Pope Francis condemns the use of abortion in cases of prenatal diagnosis of illness, saying “Never, never does killing a person resolve a problem. Never.”

June 17, 2015 – Pope Francis releases his encyclical *Laudato Si* which condemns abortion, asking “How can we genuinely teach the importance of concern for other vulnerable beings, however troublesome or inconvenient they may be, if we fail to protect a human embryo, even when its presence is uncomfortable and creates difficulties?”