



Priestly People

WE ALL ARE THE PRIESTLY PEOPLE OF GOD. TOGETHER, WE ARE LEADERS IN RESPONDING
TO THE EMOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL NEEDS OF PRIESTS AND BROTHERS.

September 2013 - Vol. 29 No. 9



Blessed Maria Bolognesi
Patroness of the Servants of the Paraclete.

“ It is with great joy that the servants of the Paraclete join with the universal church in celebrating the declaration of Pope Francis that Venerable Maria Bolognesi will be beatified in her home town of Rovigo, Italy on September 7, 2013.



As the Supreme Moderator of the Servants of the Paraclete, I, Very Reverend David T. Fitzgerald sP, Servant General, hereby place our entire congregation, members and ministry, under the patronage of the soon to be Blessed Maria Bolognesi and ask that through her intercession we may receive spiritual aid and guidance in our religious life and ministry.

Furthermore, we pray for the grace to imitate and venerate the example of Venerable Maria's constant openness to Divine Providence and her ever present desire to do God's will.

We are grateful for the prayers, sufferings and sacrifices she endured and offered for the sanctification of priests and we commit ourselves to model our lives after her example. ”

Very Reverend David T. Fitzgerald sP
Servant General

Dear Priestly People

I'm not quite sure how it happened that I have been blessed to travel to Italy a few times since becoming the servant general, but I always look forward to the journey. Who could not love Italy? Not only is the country beautiful, but the people are delightful and the food is delicious. Ancient Roman ruins, exquisite works of art, breathtaking sculptures and magnificent churches are to be found everywhere. And for every Catholic there is the joy of a visit to St. Peter's Basilica, the great churches of Rome, and the Vatican.

I come away from each visit filled with a sense of awe and wonder, grateful that we come from such a revered and sacred tradition of faith. And then, of course, there's the Pope! I love how Pope Francis continues to surprise the world and calls us all to live a more holy and prayerful life, always mindful of and ready to serve the poor and those most in need. It came therefore as no surprise that one of the first women he approved for beatification was a simple, holy, prayerful dedicated lay woman named Maria Bolognesi.

When I told some of my priest friends that I was going to Italy last month, they wanted to know the purpose of my visit. After telling several of them that I had been invited to the beatification of Maria Bolognesi they mentioned that they knew little or nothing about her. A few said they had never heard of her. One priest, an American of Italian descent with a great sense of humor said: "Maria Bolognesi? I don't know her but I am very familiar with her sauce!"

Then, almost as if by divine design, I received a photo on Facebook of a pot of spaghetti sauce someone had made. Of course it was "Bolognese sauce." So I made it my business to use that photo as a memorable, but admittedly unique way to promote the cause of Maria Bolognesi. You have already noted, no doubt, that the sauce is spelled with an "e" but Maria's family name concludes with an "I."

I couldn't help but note that Maria was never a person for whom the letter or word "I" took on any great importance. Maria was selfless, generous and kind; a person who never sought anything for herself, except to know and do the will of God. She served humbly and prayed to God for those most in need, especially for priests who might be going through difficulty. It was her special love for priests and her willingness to suffer and do penance for their conversion and healing that led me *to proclaim her a patron of the Servants of the Paraclete* earlier this year.



Outdoor mass to celebrate Blessed Maria Bolognesi's beatification
Rovigo Italy,
September 7, 2013

Among the thousands of people who came to honor Blessed Maria Bolognesi at her beatification Mass and ceremony in Rovigo, Italy, there were several whose presence is worth noting here.

At the invitation of Fr. Raffaele Talmelli, a monk presently belonging to the Benedictine Oblates of Vallombrosa, and also the postulator of the cause for beatification of Maria Bolognesi and author of a book on her life, I met a 97 year old woman named Zoe.



Procession to the
outdoor mass



Angelo Cardinal Amato SDB
Prefect of the Congregation for
the Causes of Saints

Zoe, who lived with Maria for the last twenty five years of her life, was seated just above and to the side of the outdoor sanctuary where the Mass and beatification were celebrated. Zoe was radiant and had what could only be described as a serene and saintly countenance.

Not too far from Zoe, sat a young man named *Marco*, who as a young boy suffered a severe allergic reaction to medicine that had been prescribed for a heart ailment. After having over 95% of his skin chemically burned by that allergic reaction Marco was put into intensive care. Shortly thereafter an EEG confirmed that Marco had no brain activity and eventually he was pronounced dead. At the same time, Marco's grandmother was making a long train journey from her home to see the grandson she didn't

yet know had died. When she got to the hospital and was brought into his room, she began to pray and among some books found a picture which dropped to the floor when she opened one of those books. She immediately recognized that the woman whose picture had fallen from the book was the exact same woman who had appeared to her in a dream days earlier saying that Marco would be ok. She didn't know who the woman was but she began to pray fervently to her on behalf of her grandson. ***Two hours and eighteen minutes after being pronounced dead Marco began to show signs of life and eventually fully recovered.***

On May 3, 2013 Pope Francis attributed Marco's miraculous cure to Maria Bolognesi thus clearing the way for her beatification, *the second step on the journey towards canonization.*



Family and friends of Blessed Maria Bolognesi gathered for her beatification

At the beatification Marco kept a low profile and maintained a prayerful disposition, never seeking any kind of recognition. When I spoke with him after the Mass he had very little to say, no doubt wanting the day to belong to Maria and the glory for his cure to belong to God. Marco is a living example of the power of God's love and grace. By his life and witness he calls us to imitate the example of Blessed Maria Bolognesi and to follow Jesus faithfully.

What follows below is a moderately revised posting of information about Blessed Maria Bolognesi from the internet written prior to her beatification on September 7, 2013 when she was then known as a venerable servant of God.



Father David attended the beatification of the new patroness of the servants of the Paraclete

“The Servant Of God, Maria Bolognesi, was a Mystic Figure, who suffered deeply through her love for Jesus Christ.

Born in Bosaro, Rovigo, Italy, to a poor family, on October 21, 1924, at a young age, she received a vision, where she saw Christ giving her three rings with five rubies, representing his five Stigmata.

Along her life, she underwent several painful sufferings. In order to support her family, she left school after attending only two Elementary Classes, and ate little, mostly bits of potato which her relatives or friends left.

Tempted by Demonical Possessions, she was miraculously cured but underwent harsh physical pains through loss of blood, bronco pulmonary, ophthalmic and chronic diseases, rheumatism, anemia, vomiting, and cardiac arrests.

Suffering from a severe heart attack in 1971, she died on January 30, 1980, aged 55. She lived her life in remarkable silence, bearing her sufferance through her deep love of Christ.

The Diocesan Process for her Beatification was opened on October 21, 1992, during a Eucharistic Celebration in the Tempio della Rotonda of Rovigo. It was closed on July 8, 2000.”

After further study of her life by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Pope Francis approved the miracles attributed to Maria Bolognesi during a meeting he had with Cardinal Angelo Amato, Prefect for the Congregation for the Causes of Saints.

Her simple gravesite, which is located inside the Cemetery of Rovigo, is a continuous Pilgrimage Site, visited by hundreds every year.”

Created by: Eman Bonnici



Father David sP, Father Raffaele and Cardinal Amato



Marco, the young man who was cured which led to the beatification of Maria Bolognesi

Father Raffaele and Cardinal Amato



I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be present at Maria Bolognesi's beatification. In God's divine providence, Fr. Raffaele Talmelli who is the postulator for the cause of Maria's beatification, and his confrere, Fr. Guido have begun the process of joining the Servants of the Paraclete. Both Fr. Raffaele and Fr. Guido live the life of a monk, following the rule of St. Benedict, "ora et labora" (prayer and work.) Both monks hope to remain in Italy and form a contemplative branch of the Servants of the Paraclete. God willing, a third priest who also lives with them but belongs to the Diocese of Ferrara, will also seek to become a Servant of the Paraclete. They will welcome priests and religious brothers to join with them in prayer and together seek the healing graces The Lord Jesus desires to pour out upon us all.

In mid-October we hope to open a new and completely handicapped accessible mobile home in Dittmer, Missouri for our aged and infirm servants of the Paraclete. That home will be called "Maria Bolognesi House." Our first two servants of the Paraclete to live there will be Fr. Gregory McCormick, sP and Fr. Paul Valley, sP. Please remember to pray for them and for all the priests and brothers we serve as well as all those in need. Change can sometimes be very difficult and stressful, but your prayers can and do certainly help us all.

If God has blessed you and if you are able please send us a donation to help defray the cost of the new mobile home and all the expenses involved in setting it up and moving our two beloved priests from Jemez Springs, NM to Dittmer, Missouri.

Also, in your kindness, please pray for Fr. Benedict Livingstone, sP and Br. Bernard Scollon, sP who will be moving to Jemez Springs, New Mexico, to serve in our newly established house of prayer for priests and brothers, Mary, Queen of All Nations.

We really do need and value your continued prayerful and financial support and encouragement. Without you we could not continue our ministry, You do make a world of difference! Thanks and God bless you all.

Thank you & God bless you!

David S. Fitzgerald, sP

Fr. David, sP



Father Raffaele is the postulator for Blessed Maria Bolognesi's cause for sainthood.

This much talked about press conference on his return to Rome from World Youth Days in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil... we can read from his responses and reflections with those on board the flight that he talked about many issues, not just those picked up by the American press.

Francis' Press Conference on Return Flight from Brazil (Part 2)

We featured Part 1 in the August issue of *Priestly People*

“If you do what the Lord wants, you are happy. This is my sentiment, what I feel”

Dario Menor Torres:

A question about your feelings. You commented a week ago on the child who asked you how you felt, if someone could imagine how he could be Pope and if he could wish for it. You said one had to be mad to do it. After your first multitudinous experience, such as these days in Rio have been, can you tell us how you feel about being Pope, if it's very hard, if you're happy being so and, in addition, if in some way it has enhanced your faith or on the contrary, if you have had doubts. Thank you.

Pope Francis:

To do the work of a bishop is a good thing, it's good. The problem is when one seeks that work: this isn't so good, this isn't from the Lord. But when the Lord calls a priest to become bishop, this is good. There's always the danger of thinking oneself superior to others, not as others, somewhat as a prince. These are dangers and sins. But the work of a bishop is good: it's to help brothers to go forward. The bishop in front of the faithful, to show the way; the bishop in the midst of the faithful, to aid communion; the bishop behind the faithful, because the faithful so many times have the scent of the way. The bishop must be like this. The question was if I like it? I like being bishop, I like it. I was so happy at Buenos Aires, so happy! I have been happy, it's true. The Lord has helped me in that. But I was happy as a priest, and I've been happy as a bishop. In this regard I say: I like it! And being Pope?

Pope Francis:

Also! Also! When the Lord puts you there, if you do what the Lord wants, you are happy. This is my sentiment, what I feel.

Salvatore Mazza:

I can't even get up. I'm sorry, I can't even stand up because of the many children I have at my feet. We saw in these days, we saw you full of energy even late in the evening. We are seeing it now with the plane that shakes, that you are standing calmly, without an ounce of hesitation. We wish to ask you: there is much talk of forthcoming trips. There's talk of Asia, Jerusalem, Argentina. Do you already have a more or less definite calendar for the coming year, or is it all yet to be seen?

Pope Francis:

Nothing is defined, defined. But I can say something to which thought is being given. It's defined – sorry – September 22 to Cagliari. Then, on October 4 to Assisi. In mind, within Italy, I would like to meet my own one day: go by plane in the morning and return with the others because they, poor things, call me and we have a good relationship. But only one day. Outside of Italy: Patriarch Bartholomew wants to have a meeting to commemorate the 50 years of Athenagoras and Paul VI at Jerusalem. The Israeli government has also extended a special invitation to go to Jerusalem. I believe the government of the Palestinian Authority has done the same. Thought is being given to this: it's not certain whether one will or will not go... Then, in Latin America, I don't think there is the possibility to return because the Pope is Latin American, the first trip was in Latin America... goodbye! We must wait a bit! I think we can go to Asia, but this is all in the air. I received an invitation to go to Sri Lanka and also to the Philippines. But we must go to Asia. Because Pope Benedict did not have the time to go to Asia, and it's important. He went to Australia and then to Europe, America, but Asia... To go to Argentina: at present I think we can wait a bit, because all these trips have a

certain priority. I would like to go to Constantinople, on September 30, to visit Bartholomew I, but it's not possible, it's not possible because of my agenda. If we meet, we'll do so at Jerusalem.

Fatima?

Pope Francis:

Fatima, there is also an invitation to Fatima, it's true, it's true. There's an invitation to go to Fatima. September 30 or November 30?

Pope Francis:

November, November: Saint Andrew.

Hada Messia:

Hello... you are holding up better than me... No, no, no: ok, ok. My question is: when you met with Argentine young people, somewhat jokingly, perhaps somewhat seriously you said to them that you, also, sometimes feel caged: we would like to know what you were referring to, exactly.

Pope Francis:

You know how many times I wish to go on the streets of Rome, because at Buenos Aires I used to go on the street, I liked it so much! In this connection, I feel a bit caged. But I mustn't say this because those of the Vatican Gendarmerie are so good; they are good, good, good and I'm grateful to them. Now they let me do a few more things. I believe... their duty is to guard the security. Caged, in that sense. I would like to go on the street, but I understand it's not possible: I understand it. I said it in that sense. Because my habit was – as we say in Buenos Aires – I was a street priest...

Marcio Campos:

Your blessing, Holy Father. I want to say to you when you feel longing for Brazil, for the joyful Brazilian people, embrace the flag that they gave you. I want to say also that I want to thank my colleagues of the newspapers Folha de Sao Paulo, Estado, Globo and Veja for representing them with a question. Holy Father, it's very difficult to accompany a Pope. We are all tired. You are fine and we are tired. In Brazil, the Catholic Church has lost faithful over the years. Is the Charismatic Renewal Movement a possibility to avoid the faithful joining the Pentecostal churches? Thank you very much for your presence, and thank you very much for our being on your flight.

Pope Francis:

What you say is very true about the loss of faithful: it's true, it's true. There are statistics. We spoke with the Brazilian bishops about the problem, in a meeting we had yesterday. You asked about the Charismatic Renewal Movement. I'll tell you something. In the years, at the end of the 70s, beginning of the 80s, I couldn't stand them. Once, speaking of them, I said this phrase: "They confuse a liturgical celebration with a samba school!" I said this. But I repented. Then, I got to know them better. It's also true that the Movement, with good advisers, has gone on a good path. And now I think this Movement has done so much good to the Church in general. At Buenos Aires, I met with them often and once a year had a Mass with all of them in the Cathedral. I've always favored them, after I was converted, when I saw the good they do. Because at this moment of the Church – and here I lengthen the answer a bit – I think the Movements are necessary. The Movements are a grace of the Holy Spirit. "But how can one stop a Movement that is so free?" The Church is also free! The Holy Spirit does what He wishes. Then He does the work of harmonizing, but I think the Movements are a grace, those Movements that have the spirit of the Church. Because of this, I think that the Charismatic Renewal Movement not only serves to avoid some going to join Pentecostal confessions. But no! It serves the Church! It renews us. And each one seeks his Movement according to his charism, where the Spirit takes him.

Jean-Marie Guenois:

Holy Father, a question with my colleague of La Croix, also: You said that the Church without women loses fecundity. What concrete measures will you take? For instance, a feminine diaconate or a woman head of a dicastery? It's a very small technical question: You said you were tired. Do you have a special preparation for the return? Thank you, Holiness.

Pope Francis:

We begin with the last. This plane doesn't have special preparations. I'm in front, in a good armchair, common, but ordinary, such as everyone has. I had a letter written and a telephone call made to say that I didn't want special preparations on the plane: is it clear? Second, women. A Church without women is like the Apostolic College without Mary. The role of women in the Church is not only maternity, the mother of the family, but it's stronger: it is, in fact, the icon of the Virgin, of Our Lady, the one who helps the Church grow! But think that Our Lady is more important than the Apostles! She is more important! The Church is feminine: she is Church, she is

spouse, she is Mother. But women in the Church, not only must... I don't know how it's said in Italian... a woman's role in the Church must not end only as mother, as worker, limited. No! It's something else! But the Popes... Paul VI wrote a very beautiful thing on women, but I think we must go further in making the role and charism of women more explicit. A Church without women can't be understood, but active women in the Church, with their profile, which they carry forward. I'm thinking of an example that has nothing to do with the Church, but it's an historical example: in Latin America, in Paraguay. For me, the Paraguayan woman is the most glorious of Latin America. Are you Paraguayan? After the war, there were eight women for every man and these women made a rather difficult choice: the choice of having children to save the homeland, the culture, the faith and the language. In the Church, it must be made more explicit. I think we have not yet made a profound theology of woman in the Church. She can only do this or that, now she is an altar server, then she does the Reading, she is president of Caritas. But there is more! A profound theology must be made of woman. This is what I think.

Pablo Ordaz:

We wanted to know your relation of work, not so much as friend, of collaboration with Benedict XVI. There's never been a circumstance like this before, and if you have frequent contacts, and if he is helping you with this burden. Thank you very much.

Pope Francis:

I believe the last time there were two Popes, or three Popes, they didn't speak to one another; they were fighting to see who was the true one. There were three in the Western Schism. There is something that qualifies my relation with Benedict: I love him so much. I've always loved him. For me he is a man of God, a humble man, a man who prays. I was so happy when he was elected Pope. Also when he gave his resignation, it was for me an example of greatness! A great man. Only a great man does this! A man of God is a man of prayer. He now lives in the Vatican, and some say to me: but how can this be? Two Popes in the Vatican! But, doesn't he encumber you? Doesn't he make a revolution against you? All these things that are said, no? I've found a phrase to say this: "It's like having a grandfather at home," but a wise grandfather. When a grandfather is at home with a family, he is venerated, loved, listened to. He is a man of prudence! He doesn't meddle. I've said to him so many times: "Holiness, you receive, make your life, come with us." He came for the inauguration and blessing of the statue of Saint Michael. There,

that phrase says everything. For me he is like having a grandfather at home: my father. If I had a difficulty or something I didn't understand, I would telephone him: "But, tell me, can I do that?" And when I went to talk about that big problem of Vatileaks, he told me everything with a simplicity... at the service. It's something I don't know if you know, I think so, but I'm not sure: when he spoke to us, in his farewell address on February 28, he said to us: "The next Pope is among you: I promise obedience to him." But he's a great man, he is a great!

Anna Ferreira:

Holy Father, good evening. Thank you. I would like to say "thank you" so many times: thank you for having brought so much joy to Brazil, and thank you also for answering our questions. We, journalists, are so fond of asking questions. I would like to know, why, yesterday, you spoke to the Brazilian Bishops about women's participation in our Church. I'd like to understand better: how should this participation be for us, women in the Church? If you... what do you think of the ordination of women? What should our position in the Church be?

Pope Francis:

I would like to explain a bit what I said on the participation of women in the Church: it can't be limited to being altar servers or presidents of Caritas, catechists... No! It must be more, but profoundly more! Even mystically more, with what I've said of the theology of woman. And, with reference to the ordination of women, the Church has spoken and she said: "No." John Paul II said it, but with a definitive formulation. That is closed, that door is closed, but I'd like to say something about this. I've said it, but I repeat it. Our Lady, Mary, was more important than the Apostles, than bishops, deacons and priests. In the Church, woman is more important than bishops and priests; how, it's what we must seek to make more explicit, because theological explicitness about this is lacking. Thank you.

Gian Guido Vecchi:

Holy Father, during this trip you have spoken many times about mercy. In regard to access to the sacraments of divorced persons who have remarried, is there a possibility that something will change in the discipline of the Church? That these sacraments be an occasion to bring these people closer, rather than a barrier that separates them from the other faithful?

Pope Francis:

This is a subject that is always asked about. Mercy is greater than the case you pose. I believe this is the time of mercy. This change of era, also so many problems of the Church – such as the witness that's not good of some priests, also problems of corruption in the Church, also the problem of clericalism, to give an example -- have left so many wounds, so many wounds. And the Church is Mother: she must go to heal the wounds with mercy. But if the Lord does not tire of forgiving, we have no other choice than this: first of all, to cure the wounds. The Church is Mother and must go on this path of mercy. And find mercy for all. But I think, when the Prodigal Son returned home, his father didn't say: "But you, listen sit down: what did you do with the money?" No! He had a feast! Then, perhaps, when the son wished to speak, he spoke. The Church must do likewise. When there is someone... not just wait for them: go to find them! This is mercy. And I believe that this is a kairos: this time is a kairos of mercy. But John Paul II had this first intuition, when he began with Faustina Kowalska, the Divine Mercy... he had something, he had intuited that it was a necessity of this time. With reference to the problem of Communion, it's not a problem, but when they are in a second union, they can't. I think that it's necessary to look at this in the totality of matrimonial ministry. And because of this it's a problem. But also – a parenthesis – the Orthodox have a different practice. They follow the theology of the economy, as we call it, and give a second possibility, they allow it. But I think this problem – I close the parenthesis – must be studied in the framework of matrimonial ministry. And because of this, two things: first, one of the subjects to be consulted with these eight of the Council of Cardinals, with whom we will meet, the 1st, 2nd and 3rd of October, is how to go forward in matrimonial ministry, and this problem will arise there. And, a second thing: Fifteen days ago, the secretary of the Synod of Bishops was with me, for the topic of the next Synod. It was an anthropological topic, but speaking and speaking again, going and returning, we saw this anthropological topic: how faith helps the planning of the person, but in the family, and to go, therefore, to matrimonial ministry. We are on the way for a somewhat profound matrimonial ministry. And this is everyone's problem, because there are so many, no? For instance, I'll mention only one: Cardinal Quarracino, my predecessor, said that for him half of all marriages are null. Why did he say this? Because they get married without maturity, they marry without remembering that it's for the whole of life, or they marry because socially they must marry. And the matrimonial ministry also comes into this. And also the judicial problem of the nullity of marriages, this must be reviewed, because

the Ecclesiastical Tribunals are not enough for this. The problem of the matrimonial ministry is complex. Thank you.

Caroline Pigozzi:

Good evening, Holy Father. I would like to know if you, since you've been Pope, still feel yourself a Jesuit.

Pope Francis:

It's a theological question, because Jesuits take the vow of obedience to the Pope. But if the Pope is a Jesuit, perhaps he should take a vow of obedience to the General of the Jesuits... I don't know how this is resolved... I feel myself a Jesuit in my spirituality, in the spirituality of the Exercises, spirituality, the one I have in my heart. But I feel so much like this that in three days I'll go to celebrate with Jesuits the feast of Saint Ignatius: I will say the morning Mass. I haven't changed my spirituality, no. Francis, Franciscan: no. I feel myself a Jesuit and I think like a Jesuit. Not hypocritically, but I think as a Jesuit. Thank you.

Nicole Winfield:

Holiness, thank you again for having come "among the lions." Holiness, at the fourth month of your pontificate, I would like to ask you to make a small evaluation. Can you tell us what was the best thing of being Pope, an anecdote, and what was the worst thing, and what was the thing that surprised you most in this period?

Pope Francis:

But I don't know how to answer this, really. Big thing, big things didn't happen. Beautiful things, yes, for instance, the meeting with Italian Bishops was so good, so good. As Bishop of the capital of Italy, I felt I was at home with them. And that was lovely, but I don't know if it was the best. Also a painful thing, which affected my heart a lot, the visit to Lampedusa. But that's something to weep about, that did me good. But when these boats arrive they leave some thousands there before the coast and they must arrive alone with the boat. And this makes me grieve because I think that these persons are victims of a global socio-economic system. But the worst thing – I'm sorry – that happened to me was sciatic – truly! – I had that the first month because to do the interviews I sat in an armchair, and this gave me some grief. It's a very painful sciatic, very painful! I don't wish it on anyone! But these things: to talk with people; the meeting with seminarians and women religious was very lovely, was very lovely. Also the meeting with the students of the Jesuit colleges was very lovely, good things.

What is the thing that surprised you most?

Pope Francis:

The people, the people, the good people I've met. I've met so many good people in the Vatican. I thought what I should say, but that is true. I do justice, saying this: so many good people. So many good people, so many good people, but good, good, good!

Elisabetta Pique:

Pope Francis, first of all on behalf of the 50,000 Argentines that I met there and who said to me: you are going to travel with the Pope? Please, tell him he was fantastic, stupendous, ask him when he is going to travel, but you already said you aren't going to travel... So I'm going to ask you a more difficult question. Did you get scared when you saw the "Vatileaks" report?

Pope Francis:

No, I'm going to tell you a story about the "Vatileaks" report. When I went to see Pope Benedict, after praying in the chapel, we went to his study and I saw a big box and a thick envelope. Benedict.

Benedict said to me: "All the statements, the things that the witnesses said are in this big box, all are there. But the summary and the final judgment are in this envelope. And here one says ta-ta-ta... " He had everything in his head! But what intelligence! Everything memorized everything! But no, (words in Spanish) I didn't get scared, no. No, no. But it's a big problem, alas. But I didn't get scared.

Sergio Rubin:

Holiness, two little things. This is the first one: You have insisted a lot on halting the loss of faithful. In Brazil, it's been very strong. Do you hope that this trip will contribute to having many people return to the Church, to feel closer to her? And the second, the more personal: you like Argentina a lot, and you have Buenos Aires very much in your heart. Argentines are wondering if you miss that Buenos Aires, the Buenos Aires you went around in a bus, on the streets. Thank you very much.

Pope Francis:

I think a papal trip always does one good. I believe this will do good to Brazil, but not only the presence of the Pope, but what was done in this World Youth Day, they mobilized and they will do so much good, perhaps they will help the Church a lot. But these faithful who have gone away, so many aren't happy because they feel they belong to the Church. I believe this will be positive, not only because of the trip, but above all because of the Days, the Day was a wonderful event. And of Buenos Aires, yes, at times I miss it. And that I've felt. But it is a serene missing, a serene missing, it is a serene missing.

But I think that you, Sergio, know better than all the others, you can answer this question, with the book you've written!

Alexey Bukalov:

Good evening Holy Father. Holy Father, returning to ecumenism: today the Orthodox are celebrating 1,025 years of Christianity. There are great celebrations in many capitals. Would you like to comment on this event, I would be happy if you did. Thank you.

Pope Francis:

In the Orthodox Churches they have kept that pristine liturgy, so beautiful. We have lost a bit the sense of adoration. They keep, they praise God, they adore God, they sing, time doesn't count. God is the center, and this is a richness that I would like to say on this occasion in which you ask me this question. Once, speaking of the Western Church, of Western Europe, especially the Church that has grown most, they said this phrase to me: "Lux ex oriente, ex occidente luxus." Consumerism, wellbeing, have done us so much harm. Instead you keep this beauty of God at the center, the reference. When one reads Dostoyevsky – I believe that for us all he must be an author to read and reread, because he has wisdom – one perceives what the Russian spirit is, the Eastern spirit. It's something that will do us so much good. We are in need of this renewal, of this fresh air of the East, of this light of the East. John Paul II wrote it in his Letter. But so many times the luxus of the West makes us lose the horizon. I don't know, it came to me to say this. Thank you.

Valentina Alazraki:

Holiness, thank you for keeping the promise to answer our questions on the way back...

(It doesn't matter, it doesn't matter (in response to "It's time for supper")...well, the serious question on behalf of all the Mexicans: When are you going to Guadalupe? But that one is of the Mexicans. Mine is: you are going to canonize two great Popes, John XXIII and John Paul II. I would like to know, in your opinion, what is the model of holiness that issues from one and the other and the impact they've had on the Church and on you.

Pope Francis:

John XXIII is somewhat the figure of the "country priest," the priest who loves each one of the faithful, who knows how to care for the faithful and he did this as bishop as well as nuncio. But how many testimonies of false Baptism he did in Turkey in favor of the Jews! He was a courageous man, a good country priest, with such a great

sense of humor, so great, and great holiness. When he was nuncio, some didn't like him so much in the Vatican, and when he arrived to bring things or ask for things, in certain offices they made him wait. He never, never lamented it: he prayed the Rosary, read the Breviary. Also he was one who was concerned for the poor. When Cardinal Casaroli returned from a mission – I believe in Hungary or in what was Czechoslovakia at that time, I don't remember which of the two – he went to him to explain how the mission was, in that period of diplomacy of "small countries." And they had the audience – 20 days later John XXIII was dead – and while Casaroli was going, he stopped him: "Ah Eminence – no, he wasn't Eminence – Excellency, a question: do you continue to go to those youths?" Because Casaroli went to the prison of minors of Casal del Marmo and played with them. And Casaroli said: Yes, yes! "Don't ever abandon them." This to a diplomat, who arrived from a tour of diplomacy, a very demanding trip, John XXIII said: "Don't ever abandon the boys." But he was a great man, a great man! Then there is the question of the Council: he was a man who was docile to the voice of God, because what came to him from the Holy Spirit came to him and he was docile. Pius XII thought of doing it, but the circumstances weren't ripe to do it. I think that he [John XXIII] didn't think of the circumstances: he felt that and he did it. A man who let himself be guided by the Lord.

Of John Paul II I wish to say he was "the great missionary of the Church": he was a missionary, a missionary, a man who took the Gospel everywhere, you know it better than me. But how many trips did he make? But he went! He felt the fire of taking forward the Word of the Lord. He is a Paul, he is a Saint Paul, he is such a man; for me this is great. And to do the ceremony of canonization of the two together I believe is a message for the Church: these two are brave, they are brave, they are two brave men. But there is underway the cause of Paul VI and also of Pope Luciani: these two are on the way. But, again something that I believe I said, but I don't know if here or elsewhere: the date of canonization. We thought December 8 of this year, but there's a big problem; those who come from Poland, the poor, because those who have means can come by plane, but those who come, the poor, come by bus and in December the roads already have ice and I think the date must be thought out again. I spoke with Cardinal Dziwisz and he suggested two possibilities: either Christ the King of this year or the Sunday of Mercy of next year. I think Christ the King is too short a time for this year, because the Consistory will be on September 30 and at the end of October there is little time, but I don't know, I must speak with Cardinal Amato about this. But I don't think it will be December

But will they be canonized together?

Pope Francis:

Together all two together, yes.

Ilze Scamparini:

I would like to ask permission to ask a somewhat delicate question: another image has also gone around the world, which is that of Monsignor Ricca and news about your privacy. I would like to know, Holiness, what do you intend to do about this question. How to address this question and how Your Holiness intends to address the whole question of the gay lobby?

Pope Francis:

In regard to Monsignor Ricca, I've done what Canon Law orders to do, which is the *investigatio previa*. And from this *investigatio* there is nothing of which they accuse him, we haven't found anything of that. This is the answer. But I would like to add something else on this: I see that so many times in the Church, outside of this case and also in this case, they go to look for the "sins of youth," for instance, and this is published. Not the crimes, alas. Crimes are something else: the abuse of minors is a crime. No, the sins. But if a person, lay or priest or Sister, has committed a sin and then has converted, the Lord forgives, and when the Lord forgives, the Lord forgets and this is important for our life. When we go to confession and truly say: "I have sinned in this," the Lord forgets and we don't have the right not to forget, because we run the risk that the Lord won't forget our [sins]. That's a danger. This is important: a theology of sin. I think so many times of Saint Peter: he committed one of the worst sins, which is to deny Christ, and with this sin he was made Pope. We must give it much thought. But, returning to your more concrete question: in this case, I've done the *investigatio previa* and we found nothing. This is the first question. Then you spoke of the gay lobby. Goodness knows! So much is written of the gay lobby. I still have not met one who will give me the identity card with "gay". They say that they exist. I think that when one meets a person like this, one must distinguish the fact of being a gay person from the fact of doing a lobby, because not all lobbies are good. That's bad. If a person is gay and seeks the Lord and has good will, who am I to judge him? The Catechism of the Catholic Church explains this in such a beautiful way, it says, Wait a bit, as is said and says: "these persons must not be marginalized because of this; they must be integrated in society." The problem isn't having this tendency, no. We must be brothers, because this is one, but there are others, others. The problem is the lobbying of this tendency: lobby of the avaricious, lobby of politicians, lobby of Masons, so many lobbies. This, for me, is the more serious problem. And I thank you. Thank you and good night, good trip and good rest.



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