

Guidelines

The Pontifical Academy for Life **promotes** accurate information about and a **correct understanding** of topics of global bioethics, according to the direction of Saint John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and Pope Francis, and as expressed by the messages and discourses that these popes have addressed to the Pontifical Academy. The guidelines for this commitment of the Pontifical Academy for Life may be found in the letter of Pope Francis to the Academy: *Humana Communitas*.

The Pontifical Academy for Life, through its press office and external communications, responds to direct requests for clarification.

Through its social media channels, the Pontifical Academy for Life aims to promote a greater knowledge and broader dissemination of the subject matters examined and studied in its work.

The Pontifical Academy for Life **does not open itself** to inconsequential or spurious polemics, and **it further rejects** any temptation to become involved in microcycles of needless controversy and opposition.

In this sense the Pontifical Academy unreservedly adheres to what Pope Francis said - among other things - on May 18, 2019: «To be a humble journalist does not mean to be a mediocre one, but rather to be aware that through an article, a tweet, or a live television or radio broadcast you can do good but also, if you are not careful and scrupulous, you can do harm to others and sometimes to entire communities. **I am thinking, for example, of how certain clamorous headlines can create a false representation of reality.** Correction is always necessary when one is wrong, but it is not enough to restore dignity, especially at a time when, through the Internet, false information can spread to the point of appearing authentic. Therefore, you journalists should always consider the power of the tool you wield, and resist the temptation to publish insufficiently verified news.

In a time when many tend to pre-judge everything and everyone, humility also helps the journalist not to be dominated by haste, but rather to try to stop, to find the time necessary to understand. Humility brings us closer to reality and to others with an attitude of understanding. The humble journalist tries to know the facts correctly and in their entirety before recounting and commenting on them. He or she does not nurture “excessive slogans that, rather than setting our thoughts in motion, quell them” ([Address to the Board of Directors and personnel of TV2000](#), 15 December 2014). He does not build stereotypes. She is not satisfied with easy representations that portray individuals “as if they were able to resolve all problems, or on the contrary as scapegoats on whom to load all responsibility” (ibid.).

At a time when, **especially in social media but not only**, many use **violent and derogatory language**, with words that hurt and sometimes destroy people, it is necessary instead to measure language and, as your patron Saint Francis of Sales said in Philothea, to use the word how the surgeon uses the scalpel (see chapter XXIX). In a time of too many hostile words, in which speaking ill of others has become for many a habit, together with that of classifying people, it must always be remembered that every person has his intangible dignity, which can never be taken away. At a time when many spread fake news, humility prevents

you from selling the spoiled food of misinformation and invites you to offer the good bread of truth».

http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2019/may/documents/pa-pa-francesco_20190518_stampaestera.html