

The Gospel of Life

Today, the Church cannot and should not limit itself to the simple defense of values and principles, however correct and appropriate that may be. We are called to proclaim, that is, to shout out—loud and clear—the mystery of life, which is how God dwells in history—to help every woman and every man who lives on this planet recognize the presence of the Spirit, who is Lord and who—proclaim it!—gives life. The transition from defense to proclamation implies a significant change of approach for the community of believers. First of all, as Pope Francis often says, speaking of the “outreach Church,” we must be out and about, not shut up inside, to live in the lives of men and women, and not think that the sacristy is the best place to proclaim the Gospel. We must bring Christianity back to the important currents of life, heedless of calls for caution. A wise and fruitful reexamination of the questions that are decisive for humanity necessarily needs everyone’s help. For example, -14- Pope Francis decided to appoint as Members of the Academy for Life not only Catholics but also Orthodox, Protestants, Muslims, Jews, Taoists, even non-believers. If we welcome differences only for their problematic and divisive aspects, without welcoming the richness they offer, we relegate ourselves to a kind of sterility. Only difference—beginning with the difference between man and woman—is fruitful and generative. Let me close with a challenge. I believe that the proclamation of life and its beauty is one of the areas where it is still possible to speak about God in today’s world, a world that, because it no longer needs to refer to Him when explaining many phenomena, has forced Him to the margins of history.

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