

## GRATITUDE FOR TEN YEARS OF PONTIFICATE

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It is time to renew our gratitude and prayer for the person and ministry of Pope Francis. With perseverance he continues a whole ecclesial reform, in clear harmony with his predecessors, with the Second Vatican Council and with the recent Latin American Magisterium, especially Aparecida. We are grateful for his service and testimony, marked by:

1. A constant look and commitment to humanity as a whole, offering bridges, breaking down walls, avoiding classifications that remain as ideological simplifications, "customs", which generate comfortable schemes for dealing with reality. Unfortunately, by doing so in such an authentic way, he gets in return the critics of those who live by affirming the various extremes of reality.
2. Insisting on closing the doors to "it has always been done this way", by always placing ourselves as gift and grace, as light and welcome, in a constant experience of compassion and mercy. In this sense, his gestures, his signs, his trips, his encounters are very important.
3. He calls us to be a synodal Church in mission. The Pope knows perfectly well that the Church is in the world, but doesn't belong to the world, and **therefore he broadens the possibilities of encountering God, without modifying the doctrine of the Church.**
4. Every day he confirms his choice to go to the existential frontiers, to those who are most in need, to those who suffer most in this diverse and plural global reality. He understands that the Church is not a showcase for the perfect ones, but a hospital for the sinners.

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5. He leads us away from any temptation to become the subjects of grace. That is why he knows that what is important is God himself and not the things of God.
6. He helps us to discern evangelically our challenges in building common good and peace, giving priority to the whole and not only to the parts; to unity and not to conflict; to reality and not to sole ideas.
7. He summons us, thus, to live giving God the primacy, without ceasing to offer salvation to all who seek it with a sincere heart. He seeks the pastoral blessing for all, without rejecting anyone, because we are all pilgrims who deserve the opportunity to approach the Lord, his truth and his salvation. We are co-responsible and participant in Redemption, not controlling judges of grace.
8. He lives and proclaims the joyful experience of Redemption, in the Risen Christ, with a constant call to conversion, individual, communal and global. In his two social encyclicals *Laudato Si`* and *Fratelli Tutti*, he affirms that it is urgent to build a new model of development: human, integral, solidary and sustainable, for the sake of the care of the common home. This is in continuity with what Pope Benedict XVI taught in *Caritas in veritate*.
9. He announces and promotes a Samaritan spirituality in the midst of the great historical difficulties we are experiencing.
10. He does not cease to serve his Lord, nourishing and strengthening his peace with the protection of our Mother, Holy Mary.

These ten points are not just the genius of one man, but the Breath of the Spirit that definitely accompanies the Pilgrim Church. The Pope presides over the Episcopal College and there is no doubt that he is walking with it.

Of course, nothing is complete in this life; some things will have to be purified. However, it will be difficult to move forward, in the midst of the disinformation promoted by some and the discord fuelled by certain media.

Let us thank the God for this fruitful pontificate, let us work for unity in diversity, let us dialogue, discarding conflict and let us respond to the constant request for prayer for the Pope and his Petrine service.