

St. Nicholas News

Francis Street Parish, Dublin 8. ---- 01-5157512 ---- 01-5611390



15th Sunday Ordinary Time 10 July 2022

POPE FRANCIS GIVES WIDE RANGING INTERVIEW



Pope Francis has dismissed reports that he plans to resign in the near future, saying he is on track to visit Canada this month and hopes to be able to go to Moscow and Kyiv as soon as possible after that. In an exclusive interview in his Vatican residence, Francis also denied rumours that he had cancer, joking that his doctors "didn't tell me anything about it", and for the first time gave details of the knee condition that has prevented him carrying out some duties. In a 90-minute conversation conducted in Italian, with no aides present, the 85-year-old pontiff also repeated his condemnation of abortion following the U.S. Supreme

Court ruling last month. Rumours have swirled in the media that a conjunction of events in late August, including meetings with the world's cardinals to discuss a new Vatican constitution, a ceremony to induct new cardinals, and a visit to the Italian city of L'Aquila, could foreshadow a resignation announcement. But Francis, alert and at ease throughout the interview as he discussed a wide range of international and Church issues, laughed the idea off. "All of these coincidences made some think that the same 'liturgy' would happen," he said. "But it never entered my mind. For the moment no, for the moment, no. Really!" Francis did, however, repeat his often stated position that he might resign someday if failing health made it impossible for him to run the Church - something that had been almost unthinkable before Benedict XVI. The interview took place on the day he was to have left for Democratic Republic of Congo and South Sudan, a trip he had to cancel because doctors said he might also have to miss a trip to Canada from July 24-30 unless he agreed to have 20 more days of therapy and rest for his right knee. He said the decision to cancel the Africa trip had caused him "much suffering", particularly because he wanted to promote peace in both countries. Francis used a cane as he walked into a reception room on the ground floor of the Santa Marta guest house where he has lived since his election in 2013, eschewing the papal apartment in the Apostolic Palace used by his predecessors. The room has a copy of one of Francis' favourite paintings: "Mary, Untier of Knots", created around 1700 by the German Joachim Schmidtner. Asked how he was, the pope joked: "I'm still alive!" He gave details of his ailment for the first time in public, saying he had suffered "a small fracture" in the knee when he took a misstep while a ligament was inflamed. "I am well, I am slowly getting better," he said, adding that the fracture was knitting, helped by laser and magnet therapy. Francis also dismissed rumours that a cancer had been found a year ago when he underwent a six-hour operation to remove part of his colon because of diverticulitis, a condition common in the elderly. "It (the operation) was a great success," he said, adding with a laugh that "they didn't tell me anything" about the supposed cancer, which he dismissed as "court gossip". But he said he did not want an operation on his knee because the general anaesthetic in last year's surgery had had negative side-effects. Speaking of the situation in Ukraine, Francis noted that there have been contacts between Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov about a possible trip to Moscow. The initial signs were not good. No pope has ever visited Moscow, and Francis has repeatedly condemned Russia's invasion of Ukraine; last Thursday he implicitly accused it of waging a "cruel and senseless war of aggression".

When the Vatican first asked about a trip several months ago, Francis said Moscow replied that it was not the right time. But he hinted that something may now have changed. "I would like to go (to Ukraine), and I wanted to go to Moscow first. We exchanged messages about this because I thought that if the Russian president gave me a small window to serve the cause of peace ... "And now it is possible, after I come back from Canada, it is possible that I manage to go to Ukraine," he said. "The first thing is to go to Russia to try to help in some way, but I would like to go to both capitals." Asked about the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling overturning the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling establishing a woman's right to have an abortion, Francis said he respected the decision but did not have enough information to speak about it from a juridical point of view. But he strongly condemned abortion, comparing it to "hiring a hit man". The Catholic Church teaches that life begins at the moment of conception. "I ask: Is it legitimate, is it right, to eliminate a

human life to resolve a problem?" Francis was asked about a debate in the United States over whether a Catholic politician who is personally opposed to abortion but supports others' right to choose should be allowed to receive the sacrament of communion. House of Representatives speaker Nancy Pelosi, for example, has been barred by the conservative archbishop of her home diocese of San Francisco from receiving it there, but is regularly given communion at a parish in Washington, D.C. Last week, she received the sacrament at a papal Mass in the Vatican.

"When the Church loses its pastoral nature, when a bishop loses his pastoral nature, it causes a political problem," the pope said. "That's all I can say."

*Courtesy: Philip Pullella;
Editing by Kevin Liffey,
Reuters*

Notices

Remembered in Prayer

Saturday 6pm

James (Sé) Seale (1st A)

His wife Mary

Daniel Galatanu (2nd A)

Henry Molloy Sr. & Jnr.

Patricia & William Ryan

Patricia & Michael Daniels

PJ & Helen Mackin

Sunday 11.30am

Patrick & Tish Maguire

Kieran Cooney (4th A)

Gertie Kiersey (Birthday)

Fr. Dermot Clarke (5th A)

Geraldine Dolan

Fr. John Greehy (17th A)



Domestic Violence

Women's Aid: 1800341900

Male Domestic Abuse:

1800816588

Rape Crisis Centre: 1800778888

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY ORDINARY TIME

Penitential Rite

As we begin our celebration, rejoicing in the Lord,
let us remember God's care for all.

You call us to poverty of spirit. Lord have mercy

You set us free to work for the poor. Christ have
mercy

You make us rich in your mercy. Lord have mercy

May our great and gracious Lord, have mercy on us,
forgive us our sin and bring us to life everlasting.
Amen

Deuteronomy 30:10-14

Moses said to the people: 'Obey the voice of the Lord your God, keeping those commandments and laws of his that are written in the Book of this Law, and you shall return to the Lord your God with all your heart and soul. 'For this Law that I enjoin on you today is not beyond your strength or beyond your reach. It is not in heaven, so that you need to wonder, "Who will go up to heaven for us and bring it down to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" Nor is it beyond the seas, so that you need to wonder, "Who will cross the seas for us and bring it back to us, so that we may hear it and keep it?" No, the Word is very near to you, it is in your mouth and in your heart for your observance.'

Colossians 1:15-20

Christ Jesus is the image of the unseen God and the first-born of all creation, for in him were created all things in heaven and on earth: everything visible and everything invisible, Thrones, Dominations, Sovereignities, Powers - all things were created through him and for him. Before anything was created, he existed, and he holds all things in unity. Now the Church is his body, he is its head. As he is the Beginning, he was first to be born from the dead, so that he should be first in every way; because God wanted all perfection to be found in him and all things to be reconciled through him and for him, everything in heaven and everything on earth, when he made peace by his death on the cross.

Alleluia, Alleluia
Your words are spirit and they are life: you have the
message of eternal life. Alleluia

Luke 10: 25-37

There was a lawyer who, to disconcert Jesus, stood up and said to him, 'Master, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the Law? What do you read there?' He replied, 'You must

love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself'. 'You have answered right,' said Jesus 'do this and life is yours.' But the man was anxious to justify himself and said to Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was once on his way down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of brigands; they took all he had, beat him and then made off, leaving him half dead. Now a priest happened to be travelling down the same road, but when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. In the same way a Levite who came to the place saw him, and passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan traveller who came upon him was moved with compassion when he saw him. He went up and bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them. He then lifted him on to his own mount, carried him to the inn and looked after him. Next day, he took out two denarii and handed them to the innkeeper. "Look after him," he said "and on my way back I will make good any extra expense you have." Which of these three, do you think, proved himself a neighbour to the man who fell into the brigands' hands?' 'The one who took pity on him' he replied. Jesus said to him, 'Go, and do the same yourself.'

Prayer of the Faithful

God who is Father, Son and Spirit, your compassion and love for us are beyond doubt. We praise you and thank you. Lord hear us

Lord, may we have the courage to live the gospel in a spirit of simplicity and generosity. Lord hear us

That our Christian Communities, may defend and support all who suffer prejudice, intolerance and discrimination, violence and war. Lord hear us

We call to mind all those who have died, and all who mourn for them. May we be inspired by the memory of those who have gone before us to live more faithfully the Way of the Lord. Lord hear us

For those in our own country who are unemployed, those living with uncertainty and those who are homeless, that they may be at the heart of our society and not pushed to the margins. Lord hear us

In silence we remember those who need our prayer and support.....Lord hear us

Reflection

"Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can."

John Wesley

