

THE HOLY FATHER WARNS ABOUT THE DEVIL

“The Prince of this world, Satan, doesn’t want our holiness, he doesn’t want us to follow Christ. Maybe some of you might say: ‘Holy Father, how old fashioned you are to speak about the devil in the 21st century!’ But look out because the devil is present! The devil is here... even in the 21st century! And we must not be naïve, okay? We must learn from the Gospel how to fight against Satan.”

Homily on 10th April, 2014

“Let us never yield to pessimism, to that bitterness that the devil offers us every day.”

Address to Cardinals on 13th March 2013, just after his election

“Let us always remember that the Adversary wants to keep us separated from God and therefore instils disappointment in our hearts when we do not see our apostolic commitment immediately rewarded. Every day the devil sows the seeds of pessimism and bitterness in our hearts. ... Let us open ourselves to the breath of the Holy Spirit, who never ceases to sow seeds of hope and confidence.”

Speech, 18th June 2013

“The devil cannot stand seeing the sanctity of a church or the sanctity of a person, without trying to do something.”

Homily, 7th May 2014

“Either you are with me, says the Lord, or you are against me... [Jesus came] to give us the freedom from the enslavement the devil has over us... On this point, there are no nuances. There is a battle and a battle where salvation is at play – eternal salvation. We must always be on guard, on guard against deceit, against the seduction of evil.”

Homily, 11th October 2013

“Firstly, the devil’s temptation begins gradually but grows and is always growing. Secondly, it grows and infects another person, it spreads to another and seeks to be part of the community. And in the end, in order to calm the soul, it justifies itself. It grows, it spreads and it justifies itself.”

Homily on 10th April, 2014

“The devil attacks the family so much. That demon hates the family and seeks to destroy it. May the Lord bless the family. May God make families strong in this crisis, in which the devil wishes to destroy them.”

Homily, 1st June 2014

“Note well how Jesus responds [to temptation]: He doesn’t dialogue with Satan, as Eve did in the terrestrial paradise. Jesus knows well that one can’t dialogue with Satan, because he is so cunning. The devil is intelligent, he knows more theology than all the theologians together. For this reason, instead of dialoguing, as Eve did, Jesus chooses to take refuge in the Word of God and to respond with the power of this Word. Let us remind ourselves of this in the moment of temptation: not arguing with Satan, but defending ourselves with the Word of God. And this will save us.”

Angelus address, 9th March 2014

“The devil plants evil where there is good, trying to divide people, families and nations. But God looks into the ‘field’ of each person with patience and mercy: he sees the dirt and the evil much better than we do, but he also sees the seeds of goodness and patiently awaits their germination.”

Homily, 20th July 2014

“We too need to guard the faith, guard it from darkness. Many times, however, it is a darkness under the guise of light. This is because the devil, as St Paul, says, disguises himself at times as an angel of light.”

Homily, 6th January 2014

“Behind every rumour there is jealousy and envy. And gossip divides the community, destroys the community. Rumours are a diabolical weapon.”

Homily, 23rd January 2014

“It is enough to open a newspaper and we see that around us there is the presence of evil, the devil is at work. But I would like to say in a loud voice ‘God is stronger!’ Do you believe this? God is stronger!”

General audience, 12th June 2013

