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## Pope Francis Speaks to Congress

By [Ruth Gaulke](#) | [September 24, 2015](#)



Pope Francis spoke to Congress today – a pivotal and historical action – and one that challenged us to think and act on issues such as violence, poverty, immigration, family, and the environment. He talked about prosperity and how we as the wealthiest nation in the world must set an example and think beyond our monetary goals.

*“Business is a noble vocation directed to producing wealth and improving the world. It can be a fruitful source of prosperity from the area in which it operates, especially if it assists the creation of jobs as an essential job of its purpose to the common good. This common good also includes the Earth... We need a conversation, which includes everyone since the environmental challenge we are undergoing and its human roots concern and affect us all, says Pope Francis”*

Pope Francis supports President Obama’s environmental plan and acknowledges that climate change is a real issue that needs attention.

*“... I call for a courageous and responsible effort to redirect our steps and to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human activity. I am convinced that we can make a difference, I’m sure. And I have no doubt that the United States, and this Congress, have an important role to play. Now is the time for courageous actions and strategies, aimed at implementing a culture of care and an integrated approach to combating poverty, restoring dignity to the excluded and at the same time protecting nature,” he says.*

*“We have the freedom needed to limit and direct technology, to devise intelligent ways of developing and limiting our power, and to put technology at the service of another type of progress, one which is healthier, more human, more social, more integral. In this regard, I am confident that America’s outstanding academic and research institutions can make a vital contribution in the years ahead.”*

The Pope's message resonates with all of us, regardless of religious affiliation. He asks us to be human and treat others as we would like to be treated and that also includes our planet.

[Listen to and read the full transcript](#) or watch the video via an article from [The New York Times](#) that highlights some of the Pope's key points.



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