



“An abandoned child is our fault,” says Francis in The Pope Video for November

- *In **The Pope Video** for November, Francis makes a powerful appeal regarding the extreme conditions in which millions of children live throughout the world.*
- *Each child has the right to play, to study, and to dream, and the **Holy Father** asks that we take responsibility and not forget that “they are human beings with names, with a face of their own, with an identity that God has given them”.*
- *For the **Pope**, “an abandoned child is our fault”: this is why he insists that they must “be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.”*

(Vatican City, October 31, 2022) – November has arrived, and with it a new [Pope Video](#) that shares the prayer intention that the pontiff is entrusting to the entire **Catholic Church** through the [Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network](#). This month, **Francis’** words focus on the smallest among us, **children** who are forgotten, who daily suffer rejection, indigence, poverty, and every kind of conflict, without a real chance for growth and development and without access to basic rights. **These are “conditions very similar to slavery,”** the Pope laments, referring to the millions of children who suffer these conditions, due to a “system that we adults have built.”

The message of The Pope Video cries out for the fundamental rights of children and asks us to pray that they may have access to basic services and the warmth and love of a family: “We can no longer allow them to feel alone and abandoned —they are entitled to an education and to feel the love of a family so they know that God does not forget them”.

They aren’t numbers; they are human beings

To put this month’s message in context, all we have to do is look at some global reference points. **UNICEF** emphasizes that 1 billion children live in multidimensional poverty (without access to education, health care, shelter, food, sanitation, or water) and estimates that 153 million children are orphans.

The **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights of the UN** said in a recent letter that, “at the end of last year, more than 450 million children – or one in six – were living



in a conflict zone, the highest number in 20 years. A record 36.5 million children were displaced from their homes as a result of conflict, violence and other crises.”

Pope Francis emphasizes that “they aren’t numbers: they are human beings with names, with a face of their own, with an identity that God has given them,” and as such, we adults cannot close our eyes to their plight. For the Holy Father, “an abandoned child is our fault,” and we cannot allow them to feel alone.

The right to study and to dream, and to experience the warmth of a family

Fr. Frédéric Fornos, S.J., International Director of the [Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network](#), commented about this intention: “In the face of all the suffering children throughout the world whose childhood, games, and dreams have been stolen from them, what can we do? In the midst of so many unforeseen crises, such as our common home being on fire, COVID-19, the war and its escalation, and the economic crisis, how many invisible pandemics are there? This month, Francis opens our eyes, ears, and hearts to millions of forgotten children who suffer in silence on the streets and in hidden labor, victims of violence and war, migrants and refugees. In the face of indifference and impotence, we must pray. ‘When we pray, we light a candle in the night, Francis said during the celebration of the Holy Mass on November 29, 2020. Praying makes us leave behind our indifference; prayer becomes action. Let us listen: ‘Each marginalized child, abandoned by his or her family, without schooling, without healthcare, is a cry! A cry that rises up to God and shames the system that we adults have built.”

The Pope Video is possible thanks to the generous contributions of many people. You can donate by following [this link](#).

Where can you watch the video?

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About The Pope Video

The Pope Video is an official global initiative with the purpose of disseminating the Holy Father's monthly prayer intentions. It is carried out by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer). **Since the year 2016, The Pope Video has had more**



THE POPE VIDEO
Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



than 181 million views across all the Vatican's social networks, and is translated into more than 23 languages, receiving press coverage in 114 countries. The videos are produced and created by the team of The Pope Video of the Prayer Network, coordinated by Andrea Sarubbi, and distributed by the La Machi Communication for Good Causes agency. The project is supported by [Vatican Media](#). More information at: [The Pope Video](#)

About the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is a Vatican foundation, with the mission of mobilizing Catholics through prayer and action in response to the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church. These challenges are presented in the form of prayer intentions entrusted by the Pope to the entire Church. The foundation's mission is inscribed in the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus, a mission of compassion for the world. It was founded in 1844 as the Apostleship of Prayer. It is present in 89 countries and is made up of more than 22 million Catholics. It includes a youth branch, the EYM: Eucharistic Youth Movement. In December 2020, the Pope constituted this pontifical work as a Vatican foundation and approved its new statutes. Its international director is Fr. Frédéric Fornos, SJ. For more information, visit: <https://www.popesprayer.va>

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