

## The Pope highlights the "courage, effort and sacrifice" of small and medium-sized entrepreneurs

- *In his message, the Holy Father extols the social responsibility of small and medium-sized entrepreneurs.*
- *Those who, for example, have a workshop or a shop "invest in life, generating well-being, opportunities and work", says the Pope.*
- *Pope Francis underlines the negative impact that crises have on small and medium-sized businesses.*

(Vatican City, August 2, 2022) – The [Pope Video](#) for August has just been released with the prayer intention that **Francis** is entrusting to the entire **Catholic Church** through the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#). This month, the **Holy Father** prays "for small and medium-sized businesses; in the midst of economic and social crisis, may they find ways to continue operating, and serving their communities."

### The crisis we are experiencing

"As a consequence of the pandemic and the wars, the world is facing a grave socio-economic crisis," says the **Pope**, who points out that **small and medium-sized businesses** are among those most affected. According to statistics for 2021 from the World Bank, one in four companies lost half of their volume of sales because of the global pandemic. In addition, public assistance is weakest precisely where it is most needed: in poor countries and for small businesses.

In this context, **Pope Francis** praises those who "with courage, with effort, with sacrifice, (...) invest in life, creating wellbeing, opportunities, and work." Among small and medium-sized businesses are those that run a store, a restaurant, or a workshop. It also includes those dedicated to cleaning or transportation, and to craftsmen, among others. They "don't appear on the lists of the richest and most powerful, and despite the difficulties, they create jobs, fulfilling their social responsibility".

**Fr. Frédéric Fornos, S.J.**, International Director of the [Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network](#), commented on this intention: "The crises that we are going



through, are—as the Pope says—a ‘Noah moment,’ an opportunity to build something different. In this sense, small and medium-sized businesses are of great importance, with their creative force and their capacity to contribute solutions from the bottom up. Without them, it would not have been possible to make it through the COVID crisis, and they continue to be necessary now. This is why it is important to pray for them”.

*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 than 179 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, with the support of 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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