

# ENCOUNTER JESUS

## Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings  
of the Roman Catholic Church

### WE NEED YOU

... We cannot begin anew without you, dear young people. If our world is to arise, it needs your strength, your enthusiasm, your passion.

### PERSONAL ENCOUNTER

Only a personal and non-anonymous encounter with Christ changes lives.

### TALK TO JESUS

It is not enough to hear other people speak about Jesus; we need to speak to Him ourselves, personally. Deep down, this is what prayer is all about. Prayer means talking directly to Jesus, even though our heart may still be confused and our mind full of doubts or even contempt for Christ and Christians.

### KEY QUESTION

I pray that every young person, in the depths of his or her heart, will eventually ask the question, “Who are You Lord?”



## JESUS AND THE CHURCH

How many times have we heard it said, “Jesus yes, the Church no”, as if one could be an alternative to the other. One cannot know Jesus if one does not know the Church. One cannot know Jesus apart from the brothers and sisters in His community. We cannot call ourselves fully Christian unless we experience faith’s ecclesial dimension.

### BE HUMBLE

... Humility—the awareness of our limitations—is essential! Those who are convinced that they know everything about themselves, other persons and even religious truths, will find it hard to encounter Christ.

### CHRIST ENLIGHTENS US

Christ, the noonday sun, comes to enlighten us and to restore our authenticity, freeing us from all our masks. He shows us clearly who we are, for that is exactly how He loves us.

### WITNESS FOR JESUS

When we embrace the new life bestowed on us in baptism, the Lord gives us an important and life-changing mission: “You are to be My witnesses!”

### BE OPEN

May we be increasingly open to God’s surprises, for He wants to light up our path. May we be more and more open to hearing His voice, also through the voices of our brothers and sisters. In this way, we will help each other to arise together and, at this troubled time in our history, we will become prophets of a new and hope-filled future! May the Blessed Virgin Mary intercede for all of us.

(Source: Message for World Youth Day, 9/14/21)

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