

**A Selection of Excerpts from *Walking with Jesus* by Pope Francis
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A Call to Astound: “Take note: if the Church is alive, she must always surprise. It is incumbent upon the living Church to astound. A Church that is unable to astound is a Church that is weak, sick, dying, and that needs admission to the intensive care unit as soon as possible!”

Protecting Creation: “When our eyes are illumined by the Spirit, they open to contemplate God in the beauty of nature and in the grandeur of of the cosmos, and they lead us *to discover how everything speaks to us about him and his love...* We must protect creation for it is a gift the Lord has given us; it is God’s present to us; we are the guardians of creation....This must be our attitude toward creation: guard it—for if we destroy creation, creation will destroy us!”

The Beatitudes: “The Beatitudes of Jesus are new and revolutionary; they present a model of happiness contrary to what is usually communicated by the media and by the prevailing wisdom. A worldly way of thinking finds it scandalous that God became one of us and died on a cross. According to the logic of this world, those whom Jesus proclaimed blessed are regarded as “losers”; What is glorified is success at any cost, affluence, the arrogance of power, and self-affirmation at the expense of others.”

The Sacraments: “The sacraments communicate an inerrant memory, linked to the times and places of our lives, linked to all our senses; in them the whole person is engaged as a member of a living subject and part of a network of communitarian relationships....the awaking of faith is linked to the dawning of a new sacramental sense in our lives as human beings and as Christians in which visible and material realities are seen to point beyond themselves to the mystery of the eternal.”

Baptism: “Baptism is the sacrament on which our faith is founded....it is not a formality! It is an act that touches the depths of our existence. We are by baptism immersed in that inexhaustible source of life, which is the death of Jesus; the greatest act of love in all of history.”

Eucharist: “The Eucharistic celebration is much more than a simple banquet; it is exactly the memorial of Jesus’ paschal sacrifice, the mystery at the center of salvation. “Memorial” does not simply mean a remembrance, mere memory; it means that every time we celebrate this sacrament we participate in the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of Christ.”

Seeing with the Eyes of Jesus: “In faith, Christ is not simply the one in whom we believe, the supreme manifestation of God’s love; he is also the one with whom we are united precisely in order to believe. Faith does not merely gaze at Jesus but sees things as Jesus himself sees them, with his own eyes; it is a participation in his way of seeing.”

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