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## APPENDIX 5

◀ "Is the Pope Catholic?" is  
Now a Serious Question ▶

## ◀APPENDIX 5: Is the Pope Catholic?▶

Leonardo De Chirico, in his video on current events in Roman Catholicism, makes a couple of interesting points:

- The Roman Catholic Church is both Roman and Catholic. Sometimes it leans more toward the Roman side and emphasizes the unique traditions and practices that make it different from other religions. But at other times it acts more Catholic—or universal—and treats the whole world as a part of God's family. Pope Francis clearly tends to the more Catholic side; hence the "Brothers All" encyclical, with its promotion of open borders and socialism.

The often-asked humorous question '*Is the Pope Catholic?*' has now become a serious question. This document looks at some of the criticisms about Pope Francis that people in the Catholic Church are making. To be more precise, the question they *should be asking* is "Is the Pope Roman Catholic", because he certainly is leaning toward the Catholic side.

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope\\_Francis](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Francis): "Pope Francis (born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 1936) is the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State since 2013. Francis is the first pope to be a member of the Society of Jesus, the first from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere, and the first pope from outside Europe since Gregory III, a Syrian who reigned in the 8th century.

He maintains that the Church should be more open and welcoming for members of the LGBT community, and favors legal recognition of same-sex couples. Francis is an outspoken critic of unbridled capitalism and free market economics, consumerism, and overdevelopment,[5] and advocates taking action on climate change.

He has faced criticism from theological conservatives on many questions, including his promotion of ecumenism, as well as admitting civilly divorced and remarried Catholics to communion with the publication of *Amoris Laetitia*.

Francis was mandated by electing cardinals to sort out Vatican finances following scandals during the papacies of Pope Benedict and Pope John Paul II. He stated he is determined to end corruption in the Catholic Church but is not very optimistic due to a human problem dating back centuries.

Since 2016, criticism against Francis by theological conservatives has intensified. One commentator has described the conservative resistance against Francis as "unique in its visibility" in recent Church history. Some have explained the level of disagreement as due to his going beyond theoretical principles to pastoral discernment.

Francis has admitted that the Church "arrived late" in dealing with sexual abuse cases. In 2015, Francis was criticized for supporting Chilean bishop Juan Barros, who was accused of covering up sex crimes committed against minors. In 2018, Francis acknowledged he had made "grave errors" in judgment about Barros, apologized to the victims and launched a Vatican investigation that resulted in the



resignation of Barros and two other Chilean bishops. In 2018, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò published an open letter denouncing Francis's handling of sexual abuse allegations against Theodore McCarrick, accusing him of knowing about allegations that McCarrick had committed sexual abuse and failing to take action. Viganò called on the Pope to resign

From <https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2020/08/13/pope-francis-critics-are-dividing-church-and-families-including-mine>

- His encyclical on care for creation, "Laudato Si'," was met by critics who decried his reliance on "unsettled science" and his criticism of capitalism.
- When the pope's apostolic exhortation on marriage and family, "Amoris Laetitia," was released on April 8, 2016, many of those outlets became openly hostile.... The opposition to Francis—bolstered by the publication of a document signed by four cardinals who insinuated that "Amoris Laetitia" violated immutable Catholic doctrines on marriage, adultery and objective truth—has become relentless.

[https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2019/09/12/why-do-some-catholics-oppose-pope-francis?utm\\_source=website&utm\\_medium=inline\\_promo&utm\\_campaign=read\\_this\\_next](https://www.americamagazine.org/faith/2019/09/12/why-do-some-catholics-oppose-pope-francis?utm_source=website&utm_medium=inline_promo&utm_campaign=read_this_next)

- Francis' deficit in theology would explain his dangerous positions on God's mercy in [his 2015 papal bull] "Misericordiae Vultus," his philo-communist tendency in support of the poor and popular movements, and his notion of popular piety as a theological locus in [his 2013 apostolic exhortation] "Evangelii Gaudium." His shortfall in moral theology is displayed in his opening the door to the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist in some cases (after personal and ecclesial discernment) to separated Catholics who have remarried, according to [his 2016 post-synodal apostolic exhortation] "Amoris Laetitia." His [2016] encyclical "Laudato Si'," on the care for our common home, shows a lack of scientific and ecological competence. And his excessive emphasis on divine mercy in "Misericordiae Vultus" is scandalous because it lessens the grace and cross of Jesus.
- it bothers many that Francis canonized St. Óscar Romero, the martyred Salvadoran archbishop, branded by many as a communist and a useful dupe of the left; his cause had been blocked for years.

<https://www.vox.com/identities/2018/4/5/17189564/ross-douthat-francis-pope-conservative-catholic-amoris-laetitia>

- conservative Catholic voices have emerged to criticize the pope's approach and methods. Much of this criticism centers around Francis's tacit approval of parish priests giving communion to divorced-and-remarried couples. It's a controversial practice forbidden by the Catholic catechism on the grounds that divorce is not considered permissible.

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/commentanalysis/arid-40194747.html>

- His famous reply to a question about homosexuality - “Who am I to judge?” - testified to this, though it horrified his critics.
- The plague of clerical sex abuse was always more extensive and pervasive than the Vatican was prepared to publicly acknowledge. Francis must bear a good deal of responsibility for this. Describing it as “a grave scandal” is one thing, but it is his inaction that has proved so disappointing, and that has angered many
- In his three encyclicals, the most recent of which, *Fratelli Tutti* (“Brothers all”), was published in October, he has been very eloquent in his support for a “greener world”, warning that we are custodians of the Earth and have a duty to care for it. He has also come to be seen as a scourge of globalised capitalism, which has annoyed his detractors, especially those in the USA, and left him open to claims that he is too influenced by Marxism, charges he rejects. He insists that his critique of capitalism is based on Catholic social teaching.

<https://www.christianpost.com/news/catholics-criticize-pope-francis-latest-encyclical.html>

- Many prominent American Catholics and publications have criticized Pope Francis’ latest encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, describing the document as “pregnant with socio-political concerns” and a “political document with a religious veneer.”
- Francis also criticized free-market capitalism as a “dogma of neoliberal faith” and asserted that “the Christian tradition has never recognized the right to private property as absolute or inviolable.” He reiterated his staunch opposition to the death penalty and dismissed the notion of a “just war.”
- ...*Fratelli Tutti* featured “a steady drumbeat of socialist talking points which seem more like catchphrases from the Democrat playbook than statements worthy of the Vicar of Christ.”

<https://newspunch.com/pope-francis-jesus-dangerous/>

- Breaking with centuries of Christian tradition, Pope Francis told a crowd of 33,000 Catholics in Rome that “a personal, direct, immediate relationship with Jesus Christ” must be avoided at all costs, raising fears he is an illegitimate pope with a sinister agenda.
- Last week Pope Francis told the Italian newspaper *La Repubblica* that the United States of America has “a distorted vision of the world” and Americans must be ruled by a world government, as soon as possible, “for their own good.” The week before he also called for “a one world government” and “political authority”, arguing that the creation of the one world government is needed to combat major issues such as “climate change.” Speaking with Ecuador’s *El Universo* newspaper, the Pope said that the United Nations doesn’t have enough power and must be granted full governmental control “for the good of humanity.”

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/quick-reads/letter-signed-more-1500-accuses-pope-francis-canonical-derelict-heresy>

- A group of Catholic scholars and priests has written an open letter to the College of Bishops accusing Pope Francis of heresy.
- the letter accuses Francis of seven heresies, including that people can intentionally break divine law in a serious matter without committing mortal sin, that sexual acts between divorced and remarried people “can sometimes be morally right,” and that “God not only permits, but positively wills, the pluralism and diversity of religions.”
- Many of the “actions” are related to individuals that Francis assigned to important positions or that they allege he otherwise supported. They include those accused of committing or covering up acts of sexual abuse, such as former Cardinal Theodore McCarrick (whom Francis recently laicized for abuse of minors) and Chilean Bishop Juan Barros Madrid (whose resignation Francis accepted in June).

<https://stream.org/the-top-five-lies-about-islam-you-probably-learned-in-church/>

A very timely (8/31/21) and very informative Interview with William Kilpatrick, author of the book *What Catholics Need to Know About Islam*.

In the Catholic Church, for instance, clergy and educators have for decades promoted a highly misleading view of Islam. One might add that it's a dangerously misleading view because it leaves Christians unprepared for the dangerous realities of Islam. In short, Catholic leaders are guilty of covering-up Islam's extremism. The top five myths that Church leaders promote are as follows:

1. *Islam is a religion of peace; Islam has nothing to do with violence.*
2. *Islam has much in common with Christianity, including a similar moral code, and similar ideas about marriage, family, and sexuality.*
3. *The vast majority of Muslims are moderate.*
4. *Jihadists misunderstand Islam. They have perverted a great religion. Luckily, they are only a tiny minority.*
5. *Many Christians also misunderstand Islam. They suffer from “Islamophobia” — an irrational fear of Islam that can be overcome through dialogue.*

Many in the media and in government share and promote the same deceptive myths about Islam. Much of our failure to resist the spread of Islam stems from these myths.

<https://apnews.com/article/europe-religion-3e638a346b751e71f6b494c95ea7bd65>

*Pope inadvertently quotes Putin to chide West's Afghan war, 9/1/21*

“It is necessary to put an end to the irresponsible policy of intervening from outside and building democracy in other countries, ignoring the traditions of the peoples,” the pope said.

[MD Note: The pope continues expressing his disdain of both the US and the principles of democratic government, separation of church and states, capitalism, and individual freedom.]

