



The Holy See

APOSTOLIC JOURNEY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO POLAND
ON THE OCCASION OF THE XXXI WORLD YOUTH DAY
(27-31 JULY 2016)

***GREETING OF THE HOLY FATHER
TO JOURNALISTS ON THE FLIGHT TO KRAKOW***

Papal Flight
Wednesday, 27 July 2016

[Multimedia]

Father Lombardi:

Holy Father, welcome among us. Thanks for taking, on this trip too, a little time to greet us and be with us. As usual, we are more than 70, from 15 different countries, and we hope to render a good service in spreading your words and your message in these very important days.

All of us feel moved these days, as we know, for what is happening in the world, for what happened yesterday. We would also be grateful if, before greeting us personally, you would say a word about how you are experiencing this moment and how you are getting ready to meet the young people of the world in this situation. Thank you, Holy Father.

Pope Francis:

Good day and thanks for your work.

A word that – about what Father Lombardi was saying – is often repeated is “insecurity”. But the

real word is “war”. For some time we have been saying: “the world is fighting a war piecemeal”. This is war. There was the war of ‘14, with its methods; then that of ‘39-‘45, another great war in the world; and now there is this one. It is not perhaps so organic; organized, yes, but organic... I say... But it is war. This holy priest, who died in the very moment when he was offering prayer for the whole Church, is one (person): but how many Christians, how many innocents, how many children... We think of Nigeria, for example. “But that is Africa...” It is war. Let us not be afraid to say this truth: the world is at war, because it has lost peace.

Thanks so much for your work on this Youth Day. Youth always speaks to us of hope. Let us hope that the young people will say something that gives us a little more hope, in this moment.

For what happened yesterday, I would like also to thank all those who offered their condolences, and in a special way the President of France, who wished to phone me, as a brother. I thank him.

Thanks.

Father Lombardi:

Thank you, Holy Father. Be sure that we too will try to work with you for peace, in these days.

Pope Francis:

I would like to say just one word to be clear. When I speak of war, I speak of real war, not of a war of religion, no. There is war for interests, there is war for money, there is war for the resources of nature, there is war for the domination of peoples: this is war. Someone may think: “He is talking about a war of religion”. No. All the religions, we want peace. Others want war. Do you understand?