

# Dear Padre,

## Why doesn't the Catholic Church practice what it preaches and sell off its considerable assets at the Vatican?

**T**he Catholic Church, the world's largest charitable organization, has a legacy of ministry to the poor, the sick, and the ostracized. According to Pope Francis, the Church's real estate, for example, is used "to maintain the structures of the Church and to maintain the many works the Church does in needy countries: hospitals, schools." Thus, the old adage applies: Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, but teach him to fish and he's fed for a lifetime. Similarly, selling the Church's assets would add to its immediate efforts to assist the poor, but it would prevent the Church from maintaining greater long-term assistance.



Moreover, selling the Church's patrimony of artwork (such as Michelangelo's *Pietà*) into private or corporate hands would deprive future generations the transcendence that comes from praying before a priceless treasure. In 2015, Pope Francis was asked if he ever felt pressure to sell "the treasures of the Church." He responded that they weren't the Church's treasures, but "the treasures of humanity."

While popes aren't at liberty to sell what belongs to "humanity," they generally donate personal gifts to support the needy. Motorcycles, cars, and other gifts to Pope Francis have been given away or auctioned

to benefit the poor. On his deathbed, St. John XXIII offered his doctor his fountain pen, saying it was the only thing of value he possessed.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR  
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### A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

*To do good...that is what God wants. He, who became small for our sake, asks us to offer something for the least of his brothers and sisters. Who are they? They are those who have nothing to give in return, the needy, the hungry, the stranger, the prisoner, the poor.*

—HOMILY, JANUARY 6, 2018

## Calendar

<b>Monday</b> JULY 6 Weekday Hos 2:16, 17b–18, 21–22 Mt 9:18–26
<b>Tuesday</b> JULY 7 Weekday Hos 8:4–7, 11–13 Mt 9:32–38
<b>Wednesday</b> JULY 8 Weekday Hos 10:1–3, 7–8, 12 Mt 10:1–7
<b>Thursday</b> JULY 9 Weekday Hos 11:1–4, 8e–9 Mt 10:7–15
<b>Friday</b> JULY 10 Weekday Hos 14:2–10 Mt 10:16–23
<b>Saturday</b> JULY 11 St. Benedict, Abbot Is 6:1–8 Mt 10:24–33
<b>Sunday</b> JULY 12 Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Is 55:10–11 Rom 8:18–23 Mt 13:1–23 or 13:1–9

