

DEAR DEACON INSERT

❖ **Question**

Dear Deacon Jim,

What is happening at the Vatican? Pope Francis told President Biden that he is a "Good Catholic" and Nancy Pelosi was able to receive Holy Communion at a Vatican Mass even though they are ardent supporters of abortion.

❖ **Response**

This is certainly a valid question and one which may lead to confusion on the part of many individuals. We do not know what was discussed in the meeting between President Biden and Pope Francis. In an interview with Univision and Televisan, Pope Francis stated he considers President Biden's position on abortion an "incoherence". As for the defense of abortion, the President said that he leaves it to Biden's "conscience". Francis also stated, "Let (Biden) talk to his pastor about that incoherence". This would also apply to Mrs. Pelosi and all other Catholic politicians who may be advocates of the pro-abortion stance.

There has been no change in the position of the Vatican or Church teachings regarding this issue. Any differences you feel may be attributed to the papacy of Pope Francis which tends to be more apostolic. I believe Pope Francis is approaching this issue in terms of the human conscience battling the powerful pull of selfishness.

To provide clearer guidance on the receipt of Holy Communion for pro-abortion rights politicians, the United States Conference Of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) developed a teaching document . Their position states that ***"It is the special responsibility of the diocesan bishop to work to remedy situations that involve public actions at variance with the visible communion of the Church and the moral law."*** This document also provides that *"As the Church has consistently taught, a person who receives Holy Communion while in a state of mortal sin not only does not receive the grace of the sacrament, he or she commits the sin of sacrilege by failing to show the reverence due to the Body and Blood of Christ,"*

Deacon Jim