

A Message to Pope Francis

Sometimes we all have to ask ourselves: Do we pass by, or should we do something?

Women in Latin America are facing an unbelievable burden because of the Zika epidemic.

Common sense, compassion and our social justice tradition tell us that women should be able to go to a qualified medical professional and have safe and legal access to whatever means to protect themselves. Yet, many governments in Latin America are still asking women to protect themselves in the most unscientific ways: without modern contraception or the option to end a pregnancy. Women, especially poor women, suffer and die when they do not have a choice.

Being prolife means that you care about the lives of women—especially the poor who don't have the means to circumvent restrictions around women's healthcare the way the rich the world over do.



The Good Samaritan by Pellegrin Clavé / CC-BY-3.0

When you travel tomorrow to Latin America, we ask you, Francis, to make it clear to your brother bishops that good Catholics can follow their conscience and use birth control to protect themselves and their partners. Make it clear to the Catholic hierarchy that women's decisions around pregnancy, including the decision to end a pregnancy, need to be respected, not condemned.

We ask you, Francis, to really stand in solidarity with the poor.

To be a Good Samaritan.

To be pastoral and not play politics with the lives of women.

Francis, please do the right thing.

For this we pray.