

Abortion is sin against God – Pope

Pope Francis has urged Medical Doctors to "go against the current" and assert "conscientious objection" to practices like abortion, Euthanasia and artificial production technologies, which he called sins "against God the creator."

The Pope made the remarks at a meeting with members of the Association of Italian Catholic Medical Doctors.

"The dominant thinking sometimes suggests a false compassion, that which believes it is helpful to women to promote abortion; an act of dignity to provide euthanasia; a scientific breakthrough to produce a child and consider it to be a right, rather than a gift to welcome; or to use human lives as guinea pigs, presumably to save others," Pope Francis said.

"We are living in a time of experimentation with life. But a bad experiment. Making children rather than accepting them as a gift, as I said. Playing with life. Be careful, because this is a sin against the Creator: against God the creator, who created things this way," the Pope said.

Catholic Moral Teaching forbids abortion, euthanasia, the use artificial reproduction technologies such as in-vitro fertilization and research that involves the destruction of human embryos.

"Fidelity to the Gospel of life and respect for life as a gift from God sometimes require choices that are courageous and go against the current, which in particular circumstances, may become points of conscientious objection," Pope Francis said.

The pope said the Church opposes abortion and euthanasia not only as a matter of faith or philosophical principle but as a question of science.

"It is a scientific problem, because there is a human life there, and it is not lawful to do away with a human life to solve a problem," he said. "In ancient and modern thought, the word 'kill' means the same thing."

The Pope urged Doctors to practice true compassion as "good Samaritans, caring in a special way for the elderly, the infirm and the disabled."

"There is no human life that is more sacred than another," he said, "just as there is no human life qualitatively more significant than another just by virtue of having greater resources, rights and economic and social opportunities."

In an audience recently, Pope Francis also said that divisions among Christians are a stumbling block to evangelization, and encouraged members of the Church to go beyond personal opinions and find value in what others offer.

"For the world to believe that Jesus is Lord, it needs to see communion among Christians. If, on the other hand, the world sees divisions, rivalries and backbiting, regardless of the cause, how can we evangelize?" the Pope said.

He quoted his Apostolic Exhortation "*Evangelii Gaudium*," reminding everyone that "'unity always prevails over conflict' because our brothers and sisters are always of greater value than our personal attitudes."

The Roman Pontiff offered his words in an address given to participants at a World Congress for **Ecclesial Movements and New Communities**.

Communion is something that should never be forgotten or neglected in the work of movements or communities, he said, explaining that true communion could only exist when they were united to the hierarchal Church.

"The whole is greater than the part, and the part only has meaning in relation to the whole," he noted, saying that it is the mission of movements and communities to

work together in addressing major issues of our time, such as questions surrounding life, family, peace and the fight against poverty.