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(This is a letter that I sent to Pope Francis and after his home-going, I sent a copy to Pope Leo XIV)

India, 23, 02, 2025.

Dear Father Francis,

After listening this beautiful young girl quoting your writing 'rivers don't drink their own water, and trees don't eat their own fruits. I wanted to thank you for that beautiful poem and write to you.

Being myself raised in a beautiful Catholic family, I remember having a deeper discussion with my mother about becoming a priest; I told her that I like girls too much but I will serve the Lord as a missionary.

Concerning the priesthood; could it possibly be that the scripture is misunderstood where Jesus said: "and there be eunuchs, which have made themselves eunuchs* for the kingdom of heaven's sake. He that is able to receive it, let him receive it." (Matthew 19:12) (*a man who has been castrated - Oxford dictionary) In the olden days eunuchs were also guarding the women's quarters of the kings. These eunuchs were willing to be castrated for their professions and not without reason.

The Apostle Peter, our first pope, was married and many of the priesthood were married during the first millennium, until 1074-Pope Gregory VII said anyone to be ordained must first pledge celibacy which became a mandate in 1123 and 1139. This was more according to what Paul said: "For I would that all men were even as I myself." (1Corinthians 7:7)

I totally admire men like yourself but not all dedicated priests have your inner strength. Could it be that the former clergy bound the priesthood to an oath that is against nature? As you must know like any man, especially you being a Latino, once the body needs to ejaculate it almost becomes an obsession for a man especially those in the prime of life; although it says about Moses "And Moses was an hundred and twenty years old when he died: his eye was not dim, nor his natural force abated." (Deuteronomy 34:7) Secret sins have been committed because of the celibacy as you know more than anyone else. Thank you so much for trying to heal those wounds inflicted on the innocent. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

My heart, as I know your heart, also goes out to the priests as they have bound themselves into the rigidity of sacrifice and what we think God wants from us; however, the Lord says, "I desire mercy and not sacrifice." (Hosea 6:6) Is it time to eliminate the root cause of the secret sins - celibacy?

Father Francis, I know that in the depth of your heart, you are and will always be a radical, non-conformist for our most precious and holy Jesus, who himself was non-conventional and radical as we read in the gospels, which cost him his life.

The Lord has given you a special anointing and placed you in a position of power to not only "preach good tidings unto the meek and to heal the broken-hearted, but also to proclaim liberty to the captives; the opening of the prison to them that are bound." (Isaiah 61:1) This liberty and opening of the prison can only be proclaimed in an ex-cathedra papal statement that lifts the ban of celibacy; so that those among the priesthood who wish to have a heterosexual marriage may do so, with the clear understood condition that the woman may advise when asked, but not interfere in the vocation of her husband.

As the Lord gave his life so this might cost you yours, but it was followed by the resurrection.

With my admiration, appreciation and sincere prayers.

Johan Peters

PS: On a more personal note; I have always had difficulty with the gender translation of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament; I am sending you a copy of 'The Gender of the Holy Spirit' for your wisdom and consideration. Link: <https://johanpeters.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/The-TRINITY-read.pdf>

Recent PPS: I am also sending you something that I wrote more recently on the difference of Pornography and Masturbation. <https://johanpeters.in/wp-content/uploads/2026/08/pornography.pdf>