

# origins

CNS documentary service

## Bishops Should Be Evangelists, Not CEOs

Pope Francis

Pope Francis said bishops should act not like ambitious corporate executives but humble evangelists and men of prayer, willing to sacrifice everything for their flocks. "We don't need a manager, a chief executive officer of a company or one who remains at the level of our pettiness and little pretensions," the pope said Feb. 27. "We need someone who knows how to raise himself to the heights of God's gaze over us in order to lead us to him." Pope Francis' words came in a speech to the Congregation for Bishops, the Vatican body that advises him on the appointment of bishops around the world. He stressed the importance of self-sacrifice in a bishop's ministry,

*"The church does not need apologists for her causes or crusaders for her battles but rather humble and confident sowers of the truth."*

which he described as a kind of martyrdom. "The courage to die and the generosity to offer his life and to expend himself for the flock are inscribed in the DNA of the bishop," he said. "The episcopate does not exist for itself but for the church, for the flock, for others, especially for those whom the world would throw away." Pope Francis listed several desirable virtues in potential bishops, including a "capacity for healthy, balanced relationships," "upright behavior," "orthodoxy and fidelity" to church doctrine, and "transparency and detachment in the administrations of the goods of the community." In preaching the Gospel, bishops should be appealing rather than censorious, upholding church teaching "not in order to measure how far away the world lives from the truth it contains, but in order to attract the world, to enchant it by the beauty of love, to seduce it with the offer of the freedom given by the Gospel." Pope Francis spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his speech follows, copyright © 2014 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

### 1. Congregation's Essential Mission

In celebrating the ordination of a bishop, the church gathers after the invocation of the Holy Spirit and asks that the candidate who has been presented be ordained. The one presiding then asks, "Have you a mandate?" thereby emulating the Lord's act, "He called to him the twelve and began to send them out two by two" (Mk 6:7).

Essentially, one might also express the

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