

# origins

CNS documentary service

## Mexico Visit: Meeting With Families

Pope Francis

In a meeting with families during his visit to Mexico, Pope Francis warned against moves to diminish the importance of the family, peppering his talk with anecdotes and off-the-cuff remarks that kept a packed soccer stadium cheering, laughing and applauding. Speaking under a scorching-hot sun as dozens were treated for heat stroke, the pope said family life was not always easy and often was a struggle, but he pleaded for perseverance, saying family life was one of the solutions to increasing isolation and uncertainty and its unintended consequences. "I prefer a wounded family that makes daily efforts to put love into play to a family and a society

*"Love is not easy, it not easy, but the most beautiful thing is when a man and a woman can offer each other true love and offer it for life."*

that are sick from isolationism or a habitual fear of love," Pope Francis said Feb. 15 in front of a boisterous audience of families, who came from across southern Mexico and nearby Guatemala for a celebration in the city of Tuxtla Gutiérrez. "I prefer a family that makes repeated efforts to begin again to a family and a society that are narcissistic and obsessed with luxury and comfort. ... I prefer a family with tired faces from generous giving to a family with faces full of makeup that know nothing of tenderness and compassion." The pope's meeting with families turned the focus of his six-day visit toward pastoral issues after hitting hard on matters such as corruption, crime and the country's often impoverished and exploited indigenous populations (see *Origins* Vol. 45, No. 38, for coverage of the first half of the pope's visit to Mexico). Pope Francis spoke in Spanish; a Vatican translation of his speech follows, copyright © 2016 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

■ thank God for being here on Chiapan soil. It feels good to be here on this soil, on this land; it is good to be here in this place that with you here has a family flavor, a home flavor. I give thanks for your faces and your presence; I give thanks to God because of the heartbeat of his presence in your families.

I also thank you, families and friends, for giving us your witness, for opening to us the doors of your homes, the doors of your lives; you have allowed us to sit with you sharing

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