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Speech to the Roman Curia Pope Francis

Humanity is the key for interpreting the reform of the Roman Curia, Pope Francis told cardinals and top officials of Vatican offices Dec. 21. Beginning his traditional pre-Christmas address, the pope thanked Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, who submitted his resignation, for his service. As in previous Christmas addresses to the Curia, the pope spoke of its ongoing reform. Pope Francis quoted St. John Henry Newman, whom he canonized in October: "To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often." The pope reflected on the work of several dicasteries, saying that reform is rooted in evangelization, the church's "first and most important task." The renewal of structures is meant

"Let us always remember that behind every form of rigidity lies some kind of imbalance. Rigidity and imbalance feed one another in a vicious circle."

"to make them more mission-oriented," he said, emphasizing later that "Christendom no longer exists!" "Today we are no longer the only ones who create culture, nor are we in the forefront of those most listened to," Pope Francis said, adding that what is needed is a change of pastoral mindset. He spoke of the need for an "appropriate presence of the Holy See in the communications sector" and spoke of migrants "who today are symbol of all those discarded by the globalized society." The pope spoke in Italian; a Vatican translation of his address follows, copyright © 2019 by Liberia Editrice Vaticana.

and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us" (Jn 1:14).
Dear brothers and sisters,
I offer all of you a cordial welcome. I express my gratitude to Cardinal Angelo Sodano for his kind words, and in a particular way I thank him, also in the name of the members of the College of Cardinals, for the valued service he has long provided as dean in a spirit of helpfulness, dedication and efficiency, and with great skill in organization and coordination. In the manner of "la rassa nostrana," as the Piedmontese writer Nino Costa would say.

Now the cardinal bishops have to elect a new dean. I am hoping they will elect someone who can carry this important responsibility full time. Thank you.

To each of you here, to your co-workers and all those who serve in the Curia but also to the papal representatives and their staff, I

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January 9, 2020
Volume 49
Number 32