

## Dr. Burgess Weekly Video Address September 25, 2015 “Pope Visits the U.S.”

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Hello, this is your Congressman, Michael Burgess. Pope Francis made a historic visit to Washington, D.C. and addressed a joint session of Congress. This was the first time in history a Pope has addressed Congress on the floor of the House of Representatives.

The Pope shared his message on some values and on some of which we can agree.

These include the sanctity of life, the right to religious freedom and that economic growth must be balanced with human dignity.

Pope Francis also reminded us of a simple, but often forgotten concept. “To do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

This includes our responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development.

The Pope holds no political power in the United States and we recognize that our unalienable rights come from God. Not from the government.

We ignore these facts at our own peril.

And of course, these unalienable rights include the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. They also include our right to select the government that will protect our rights.

Our country was founded on the idea that government only occurs with the consent of the governed.

Not to be violated by an individual—a king or a monarch.

As Pope Francis stated, “your own responsibility as members of Congress is to enable this county to grow as a nation.”

Well, I think on this point, we are in agreement.

It was a privilege to be part of this historic opportunity to hear from the leader of the Catholic Church.

And I would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to be part of that occasion.

As always, I welcome your comments and your questions on this issue or any other.

Thank you for taking the time to listen. May God bless you and your family, and as the song says, God bless Texas.