

# THE POWER OF STORIES

## Pope Francis, Shepherd of Truth

Notable quotations from Pope Francis and official teachings  
of the Roman Catholic Church

### **DON'T LOSE BEARINGS**

... I believe that, so as not to lose our bearings, we need to make our own the truth contained in good stories. Stories that build up, not tear down; stories that help us to rediscover our roots and the strength needed to move forward together.

### **HUNGER FOR STORIES**

From childhood we hunger for stories just as we hunger for food. Stories influence our lives, whether in the form of fairy tales, novels, films, songs, news, even if we do not always realize it. Often we decide what is right and wrong based on characters and stories we have made our own.

### **EVERYDAY HEROES**

The stories of different ages all have a common “loom”; the thread of their narrative involves “heroes”, including everyday heroes, who in following a dream confront difficult situations and combat evil, driven by a force that makes them courageous, the force of love.

### **“CONSTANT GROWTH”**

Human beings are storytellers because we are engaged in a process of constant growth, discovering ourselves and becoming enriched in the tapestry of the days of our life.



### **DESTRUCTIVE STORIES**

How many stories serve to lull us, convincing us that to be happy we continually need to gain, possess and consume. We may not even realize how greedy we have become for chatter and gossip, or how much violence and falsehood we are consuming.

### **NEEDED FOR LIFE**

... We need wisdom to be able to welcome and create beautiful, true and good stories. We need courage to reject false and evil stories. We need patience and discernment to rediscover stories that help us not to lose the thread amid today's many troubles. We need stories that reveal who we truly are, also in the untold heroism of everyday life.

### **“THE GREAT LOVE STORY”**

The Bible is ... the great love story between God and humanity. At its center stands Jesus, whose own story brings to fulfillment both God's love for us and our love for God.

### **A LETTER FROM CHRIST**

“You” — Saint Paul wrote — “are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Cor 3:3).

### **CRY OUT FOR SHARING**

Each of us knows different stories that have the fragrance of the Gospel, that have borne witness to the Love that transforms life. These stories cry out to be shared, recounted and brought to life in every age, in every language, in every medium.

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