

**MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
TO THE EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN OF THE "WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM"
ON THE OCCASION OF THE ANNUAL GATHERING IN DAVOS-
KLOSTERS**

[23-26 JANUARY 2018]

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[...]

The recurring financial instabilities have brought new problems and serious challenges that governments must confront, such as the growth of unemployment, the increase in various forms of poverty, the widening of the socio-economic gap and new forms of slavery, often rooted in situations of conflict, migration and various social problems. "Together with this, we encounter certain rather selfish lifestyles, marked by an opulence which is no longer sustainable and frequently indifferent to the world around us, and especially to the poorest of the poor. To our dismay we see technical and economic questions dominating political debate, to the detriment of genuine concern for human beings. Men and women risk being reduced to mere cogs in a machine that treats them as items of consumption to be exploited, with the result that – as is so tragically apparent – whenever a human life no longer proves useful for that machine, it is discarded with few qualms" (Address to the European Parliament, Strasbourg, 25 November 2014). [...]