

# *Pope Francis Visits Mexico 12-16 February 2016*

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## **Musical de Chiapas**

**EC:** Durante su visita al estado de Chiapas, el más pobre de México y el de mayor concentración de comunidades originarias, el papa Francisco hizo un llamado a pedir perdón a los pueblos indígenas por los siglos de exclusión a que han sido sometidos desde la conquista europea hasta nuestros días.

**GJ:** During his visit to the state of Chiapas, as part of his 12-16 February visit to Mexico, the poorest in Mexico and the largest concentration of indigenous communities, Pope Francisco called for an apology for indigenous peoples for centuries of exclusion that have undergone since the European conquest to the present.

Before a large crowd in the city of San Cristobal de las Casas, the Catholic Pontiff said that "many times, systematic and structural way, their people have been misunderstood and excluded from society. How sad! How well we would all do some soul searching and learn to say sorry "

The words of Francis meant an urgent call for dignity and value to millions of human beings who were, during the so-called conquest of America and in more than five subsequent centuries, victims of of dispossession from their ancestral lands, culture and religion, dignity, freedom and, in many cases, their

lives.

The Pope's words are also a great opportunity to close the terrible gap created on July 12, 1562 when a bonfire built by Bishop Diego de Landa in the Yucatan town of Mani destroyed thousands of texts and other important works, testimony to the great cultural, scientific and spiritual wealth of the Maya.

**ECM:** Hoy día sólo quedan unos pocos libros sobrevivientes a esa hecatombe, los llamados "códices", de contenido aún desconocido con exactitud, y casi todos ellos en tierra extraña: el de Dresde, en Alemania, el Peresiano, en París, y el Tro-Cortesiano, en Madrid. Sólo permanece en el Museo de Antropología de México el Grolier, cuya autenticidad aún discuten los especialistas.

**GJ:** Today only a few of those of those books survive as codeces of unknown accurate content, and almost all of them in a foreign countries: Dresden, Germany, in Paris, and in Madrid. Lost in the fire of Landa the most basic rights of indigenous peoples, have not yet been restored.

Hence the call of Pope Francisco to apologize for so many crimes should not be left semantics, but must become a series of government policies aimed at solving the serious problems of health, education , housing and other services, which are chronic among Indians, the poorest of the poor. Respect of their territories is imperative also and, this is a concept that goes beyond the physical space where they were or are settled communities and includes soil, flora and fauna, traditions and knowledge, customs and ancestral worldview.

**ECM:** Las palabras del pontífice traen inmediatamente a la memoria aquellas de José Martí, a la vez admonitorias y proféticas: "no se ve cómo del mismo golpe que paralizó al indio se paralizó a América? Y hasta que no se haga andar al indio, no comenzará a andar bien la América.

**GJ:** The words of the Pope immediately bring to mind the admonitory and prophetic lines of José Martí, the admonitory and prophetic time "You must see how the same blow that paralyzed the Indian paralyzed America? And is not until Native American begin to walk again, that America will walk.

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