

## If I were Pope

Thomas C. Fox | Feb. 26, 2013 NCR Today

### If I Were Pope

*by Jan Philips*

[?Via several websites](#) [1]

If I were pope  
I'd proclaim the end of my infallibility  
and banish the word sin from the doctrines of faith

I'd ask half the bishops and cardinals  
to replace themselves with a thoughtful woman  
and complete their ministries in a prison or homeless shelter

If I were pope  
I'd pay the mystics to write poetry all day  
and have their words read at the Sunday Masses

I'd pay the prophets to upload their message  
in five minute videos  
for youtube viewers around the world

I'd hire a thousand displaced workers  
to construct a new Sistine Chapel and cover it with mirrors  
instead of male images

If I were pope  
I'd announce a contest  
for 10 new sacraments that celebrate  
peace-making, justice, and interfaith creations.

I'd send envoys to the villages  
to talk about birth control  
and distribute condoms wherever they are needed.

I'd establish a tuition-free college in every country  
to train young students how to think  
non-violently and act ethically.

If I were pope I'd convert closed churches

to housing for the needy  
and meeting places for the marginal and walking wounded  
I'd buy farms in rural places  
and dedicate each one to organic farming  
and cooperative, sustainable, community-based agriculture.  
I'd convert every old Motherhouse and seminary  
into a training center for spiritual activists, cultural creators  
and community collaborators.

I'd auction off my skullcap, my mozetta cape and my darling red shoes  
to the highest bidder and send the money to Haiti  
for the construction of schools and health care centers.

I'd sell my Fisherman's Ring on ebay  
and donate the proceeds to the Gulf shrimpers.

I'd trade my red and gold embroidered fascia  
(the stole with the fringes) for a villa in Tuscany  
and give free spa retreats to women who've served the church  
for five years or more.

If I were pope, I'd throw a party at the Vatican  
and invite everyone who's left the church  
because they didn't feel welcomed.  
(The overflow crowd would be treated to weekends  
at Italian vineyards.)

If I were pope, I'd announce my retirement,  
and as my last act in office, at the final party,  
I'd ordain to the priesthood any woman who was ready,  
marry any gay couple who wanted my blessing,  
and marry any priest, male or female.

Then I'd get in my jammies,  
say a prayer of gratitude,  
and crawl into bed for a much needed nap.

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**Links:**

[1] [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jan-phillips/if-i-were-pope\\_b\\_2670242.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jan-phillips/if-i-were-pope_b_2670242.html)