

Pope Francis at ESC Congress 2016



His Holiness Pope Francis honoured the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) with an historic visit to ESC Congress 2016, the world's largest scientific summit on cardiovascular medicine.

His Holiness advised the cardiologists: "You look after the heart. How much symbolism is enshrined in this word! How many hopes are contained in this human organ! In your hands you hold the beating core of the human body, and as such your responsibility is very great!"

He also said that the Magisterium of the Church understands the importance of scientific research and will not only accompany healthcare providers along this demanding path of providing quality care but will also promote their cause and will support them throughout.

ESC President, Professor Fausto Pinto, reiterated the same message and said that the European Society of Cardiology, like the Vatican, is committed to alleviating suffering and promoting healthy lifestyles. Both share a common purpose and are committed to helping people living more productive lives.

"There is so much more that could be done, that must be done," Professor Pinto said to Pope Francis. "In Europe alone, 1.4 million people under the age of 75 die prematurely each year from heart attacks and strokes because, in many cases, they are not getting the timely and effective healthcare they need.

"Governments, public health systems, clinics, hospitals, universities, we must all recognise the urgency of this public health crisis. And a crisis is exactly what it is, and how it should be seen."

Source: [ESC](#)

Image Credit: ESC

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