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## From +John...

Dear Friends,  
I can still remember the day when as a seminarian I discovered these words in the Letter of St Paul to the Philippians; ***“Do all that has to be done without complaining or arguing and then you will be innocent and genuine, perfect children of God among a deceitful and underhand brood, and you will shine in the world like bright stars because you are offering it the word of life.”*** (Phil 2:14-15)

Those words had a powerful impact on me back in 1971. I have been conscious of them ever since and have always tried not to complain or argue, but have not always succeeded!

I was reminded of those words of St Paul when I read an article on Rome Reports a few days ago about the poster which Pope Francis had posted on his door in Casa Santa Marta.

The Rome Report read: **‘Pope hangs a sign on the door of his room: “No Whining”**’ It then went on to say that the Pope put the poster on his door either because it's the summer and the Pope is in a good mood, or because he is tired of hearing people turn complaining into a sport. Under the Italian heading **VIETATO LAMENTARSI** the words read: *“Offenders are subjected to syndrome of victimism that lowers the mood and the ability to solve problems.”*

It says that *“sanction is doubled if the offense is committed in the presence of children”* and concludes with a hopeful message: *“To become the best version of yourself, you must focus on your own potential and not on your own limits, so stop complaining and act to change your life for the better.”*

Evidently Pope Francis was given the poster a month or so ago after one of his General Audiences in St Peter's Square by the psychologist Salvo Noè. I believe that this is a message that summarizes



Pope Francis' thoughts, and highlights the way he runs his pontificate.

When I read this particular Rome Report I knew that this was a good lesson for me, and maybe it is a good lesson for all of us.

+John

## NEWS . . .

- **Clergy Day of Prayer:** Tuesday 1 August at the Home of Compassion Island Bay 10.00am to 4.00pm. An invitation has been sent to Priests of the Archdiocese. Please respond to my office today to confirm your place at this day. [t.halliday@wn.catholic.org.nz](mailto:t.halliday@wn.catholic.org.nz)
- **Election Housing Forum:** Anglican Bishop Justin Duckworth and I are hosting an election forum at St Paul's Anglican Cathedral, on Wednesday 9 August from 5.45pm. All are most welcome to attend.
- **Calling on Young New Zealanders to share their voice with the Vatican:** Young New Zealanders are being called to share their views about life, faith, and their experience of Church through an online survey published by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference. The survey is part of an international effort by Pope Francis to better understand the lives, attitudes and concerns of young people around the world, in the lead up to the Synod on “Young people, faith and vocational discernment” in Rome, October 2018. New Zealanders aged between 16-29 years of age are encouraged to answer the survey and tell their friends about it and share the link with their networks. The survey will close at midnight on 27 August 2017. Please share this information with the young people as you can, <https://www.facebook.com/voicetovaticanNZ> <https://www.catholic.org.nz/>
- A few priests from Palmerston North are gathering for a retreat at Kopua, beginning on Sunday 17 September 2017. There are a couple of places available if anyone is interested. Email [monsbell@gmail.com](mailto:monsbell@gmail.com) to register your interest.

*“I am gift. All that I am is something that is given, and given freely. Being doesn't cost anything. There is no price tag, no strings attached.”*

Thomas Merton

***“Go, you are sent”***