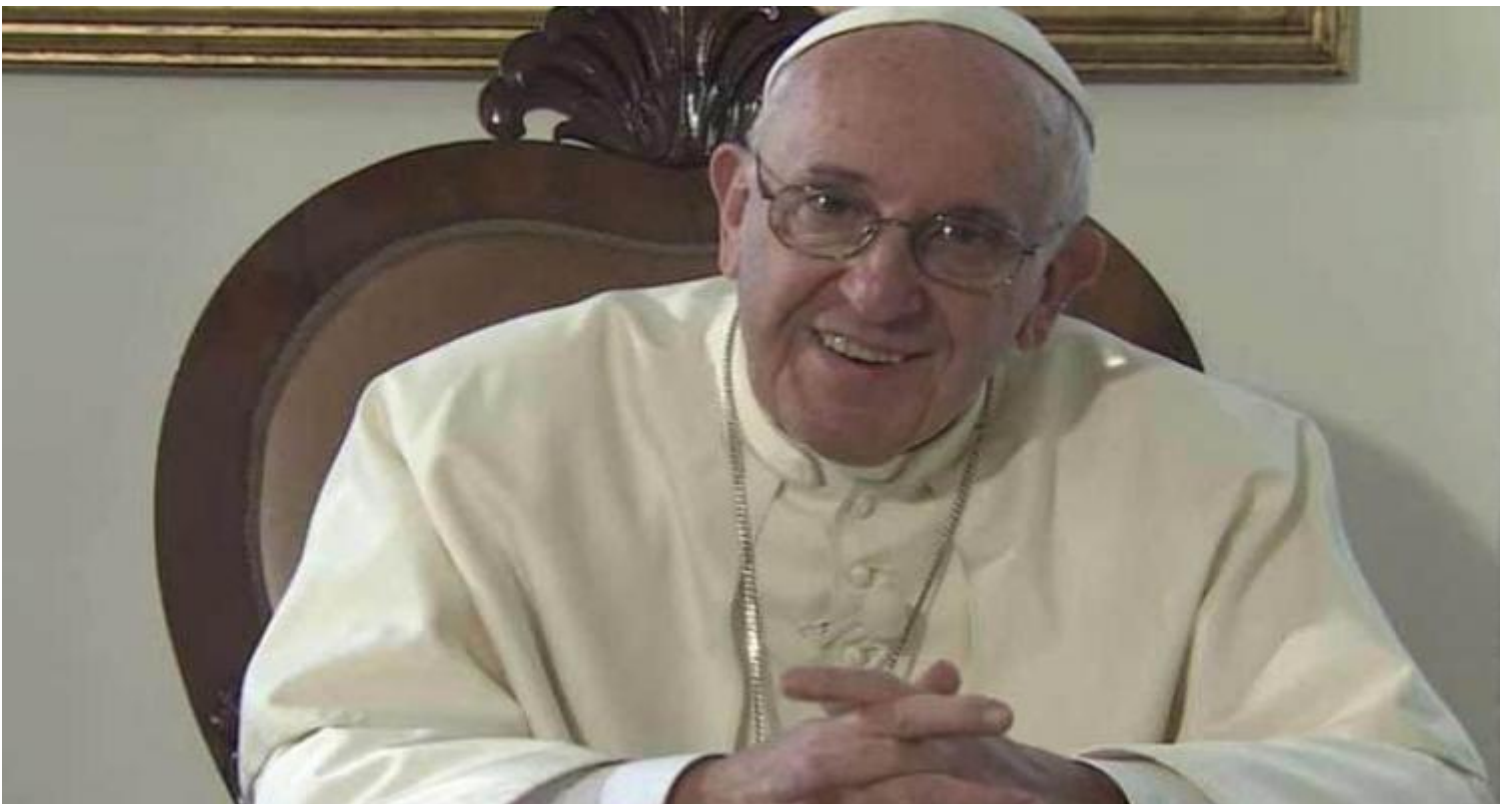


# *Pope Francis sends a message on the occasion of Havana's 500th anniversary*

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Rome, November 15 (RHC)-- Pope Francis sent a warm message to the people of Havana on Friday on the eve of the 500th anniversary of the founding of the city, San Cristóbal de La Habana.

In a video message, the pontiff said he was happy to join his 'dear brothers and sisters of Havana' on the anniversary and said that since its foundation, many lives given by others are interwoven, many dreams, efforts, shared sacrifices to build the present and future of the children of Cuba.

In this regard, he referred to faith, charity, and hope, three historical aspects that, in his opinion, were present from the very beginnings, and continue to be pillars for this time.

After indicating that faith is in the roots of the city, Francis urged the inhabitants of the Cuban capital not to forget "the testimony of faith of your ancestors" and recalled that the founding act of Havana was the celebration of Holy Mass.

And because "there will always be difficulties in life," Pope Francis encouraged the Cuban people to move forward in unity, united in charity and in the hope of moving forward, which "helps the people to grow strong."

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