

## George Will vs. Pope Francis

Michael Sean Winters | Dec. 16, 2013 Distinctly Catholic

On Gaudete Sunday, I did not need to read [this op-ed by George Will](#) [1] first thing in the morning to cast a damper on the day. It is not just snarky and condescending, it is that Will perfectly evidences the thing Pope Francis is railing against, the de-personalization of the economy. Will writes:

*If you think [today's 7 percent unemployment rate](#)[2] is too low. (It would be 10.9 percent if the workforce participation rate were as high as it was when Obama was first inaugurated; since then, millions of discouraged workers have stopped searching for jobs.) Because [less than 3 percent of the workforce earns the minimum wage](#)[3], increasing that wage will not greatly increase unemployment. Still, raising the price of low-productivity workers will somewhat reduce demand for them.*

*If you reject that last sentence. If you do, name other goods or services for which you think demand is inelastic when their prices increase.*

You see the problem? A human person is not a commodity, not one of the "goods and services" that we all acknowledge the market is best suited for determining the price. If a wage of those who make the goods or deliver the services is not a living wage, the price is not accurate by any human, moral calculation. This is Will at his worst, unwittingly bowing down before the dismal science. He should know better.

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**Links:**

[1] [http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/george-f-will-raise-the-minimum-wage-its-iffy/2013/12/13/f9a8d81a-6363-11e3-a373-0f9f2d1c2b61\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/george-f-will-raise-the-minimum-wage-its-iffy/2013/12/13/f9a8d81a-6363-11e3-a373-0f9f2d1c2b61_story.html)

[2] <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/empst.nr0.htm>

[3] <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2013/07/19/who-makes-minimum-wage/>