

## Francis: 'Don't let clericalism replace prophecy'

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A church without prophets falls into the trap of clericalism. These were the words of Pope Francis during his homily at Mass on Monday morning in the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta, Vatican radio [reported](#). [1]

Commenting on the day's readings, Francis said a prophet is someone who listens to the words of God, who reads the spirit of the times, and who knows how to move forward towards the future. True prophets, he said, hold within themselves three different moments: past, present, and future. They keep the promise of God alive, they see the suffering of their people, and they bring us the strength to look ahead.

"When there is no prophecy amongst the people of God, the emptiness that is created gets filled by clericalism. All memory of the past and hope for the future are reduced only to the present: no past promise, no future hope. But when clericalism reigns supreme, Pope Francis said, the words of God are sorely missed, and true believers weep because they cannot find the Lord."

"As we prepare for the birth of the Lord let us pray: 'Lord, let us not lack prophets amongst your people!' All those who are baptized are prophets: let us not forget God's promise, let us not tire of moving forward."

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**Links:**

[1] [http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2013/12/16/pope\\_francis:\\_without\\_prophecy,\\_only\\_clericalism/en1-756052](http://en.radiovaticana.va/news/2013/12/16/pope_francis:_without_prophecy,_only_clericalism/en1-756052)