

When did Pope Francis talk about the right to "inner freedom"

Pope Francis has spoken about "inner freedom" on multiple occasions:

1. In December 2019, during an address to staff of the Jesuit Italian-language magazine *Aggiornamenti Sociali*, Pope Francis encouraged Catholics to "always keep inner freedom." He noted that only those who pray, put themselves before God, and carry the Gospel can maintain their inner freedom^[1].
2. In August 2022, during a visit to L'Aquila, Italy, Pope Francis discussed how a lack of inner freedom leads to "selfishness, individualism, self-interest, abuse of power." He emphasized that true freedom comes from seeking God's will, love, and mercy^[2].
3. More recently, in his Message for Lent 2024, Pope Francis focused on the theme of freedom, discussing both its exterior and inner dimensions. He highlighted how inner slavery can persist even when outward freedom is achieved^[3].

These instances demonstrate that Pope Francis has consistently emphasized the importance of inner freedom in his teachings over the years.

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1. <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/43014/pope-francis-on-sharing-the-christian-message-in-reality>
2. <https://www.ncronline.org/vatican/without-forgiveness-humility-pope-says-laquila-then-injustice-wars-will-rage>
3. <https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/en/bollettino/pubblico/2024/02/01/240201f.pdf>