On Christmas Day 2017, when most of us were likely enjoying festive gatherings with family and friends to celebrate Our Lord's Nativity, a group of courageous former Muslims published an open letter to Pope Francis in which they pose some very serious questions: "If Islam is a good religion in itself, as you seem to teach, why did we become Catholic? Do not your words question the soundness of the choice we made at the risk of our lives? … Should we return to Islam?"

The letter, originally composed in French and having just 10 signatories on the date of publication, has now garnered over 2,600 signatures from ex-Muslims the world over, with a steady stream of new signers daily. Examples of Francis' pandering to Islam are cited throughout the text, including "paragraphs 252 and 253 of *Evangelii Gaudium*," his lengthy programme "On the Proclamation of the Gospel in Today's World," and various other public statements.

While Francis inexplicably claims that "authentic Islam and the proper reading of the Koran are opposed to every form of violence" (EG, para. 253), the signers of the open letter – former Muslims who know the truth about Islam from the inside – testify otherwise:

> "As a proper Antichrist, Islam exists only as an enemy of all: 'Between us and you there is enmity and hatred forever, until you believe in Allah alone!' (Quran 60:4) For the Quran, Christians 'are only impurity' (Quran 9:28), 'the worst of Creation' (Quran 98:6), all condemned to Hell (Quran 4:48), so Allah must exterminate them (Quran 9:30). We must not be deceived by the Quranic verses deemed tolerant, because they have all been repealed by the verse of the Sword (Quran 9:5). … We do not confuse Islam with Muslims, but if for you 'dialogue' means the voice of peace, for Islam it's only another way to make war. Also, as it was in the face of Nazism and Communism, naiveté in the face of Islam is suicidal and very dangerous."

They respectfully resist Francis' incessant call for Europeans, in particular, to welcome a virtually unlimited number of Muslim migrants into their countries ("suicidal and very dangerous," indeed), asserting that such a mandate distorts the true sense of the Scriptures:

> "…you, Most Holy Father, preach the welcoming of migrants regardless of the fact that they are Muslims, something forbidden by Apostolic command: 'If anyone comes to you but refuses this Gospel, do not receive him among you nor

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> greet him. Whoever greets him participates in his evil works' (2 John 1:10-11) …
>
> The meaning of Scripture should not be supplied by the proponents of globalism, but in fidelity to Tradition."

Towards the end of their appeal, these noble souls beseech the Holy Father "to quickly convene a synod on the dangers of Islam," stating, "If the Church had the courage to do that, we do not doubt that millions, Muslims as well as other men and women seeking the true God, would convert." And in closing, they simply ask him "to confirm our conversion to Jesus Christ, true God and true man, the only Savior, with a frank and right discourse on Islam …"

Further in-depth analysis of this historic letter will be published in the forthcoming February 2018 edition of *Catholic Family News* (subscribe HERE).

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