

*Administration of Joseph R. Biden, Jr., 2021*

**Remarks in an Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Prime Minister Mario Draghi of Italy in Rome, Italy**  
*October 29, 2021*

*The President's Meeting With Pope Francis*

*Q.* Mr. President, did the Pope bless your rosary?

*The President.* Yes.

*Climate Change*

*Q.* Did you address the—[inaudible]—climate and Build Back Better?

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* What did you discuss about climate and Build Back Better with him?

*The President.* We have a half an hour. I'll talk to you later.

About the need and the moral responsibility we have to deal with this. That's what we're going to talk about too.

*Prime Minister Draghi.* Yes.

*Abortion/The President's Meeting With Pope Francis*

*Q.* Mr. President, did the issue of abortion come up at all?

*The President.* No, it didn't. It came up—we just talked about the fact that he was happy I was a good Catholic and I should keep receiving Communion.

*Q.* He said that you should keep—be receiving Communion?

*The President.* Yes.

*Q.* So does that mean the bishop conversation specifically came up?

*Prime Minister Draghi.* [Inaudible]

*The President's Meeting With Pope Francis*

*Q.* [Laughter] Mr. Biden, did you take Communion today, Mr. President? Did the Pope give you Communion today?

*The President.* No.

*The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops*

*Q.* Did you discuss the U.S. Conference of Bishops?

*The President.* I beg your pardon?

*Q.* Did you discuss the Conference of Bishops?

*The President.* That's a private conversation.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:22 p.m. at the Chigi Palace.

*Categories:* Interviews With the News Media : Exchanges with reporters :: Rome, Italy; Meetings With Foreign Leaders and International Officials : Italy : Prime Minister Draghi.

*Locations:* Rome, Italy.

*Names:* Draghi, Mario; Francis, Pope.

*Subjects:* Communications : News media :: Presidential interviews; Environment : Climate change; Health and medical care : Abortion; Italy : President Biden's visit ; Italy : Prime Minister; Vatican City : Pope.

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