

Pope attacks 'throwaway culture' of abortions

By Nick Squires

THE POPE described abortion as "horrific" and a symptom of a "throwaway culture" yesterday, in one of his strongest statements since being elected in March.

Pope Francis, who has focused more on social issues such as poverty since becoming pontiff, said in the annual State of the World address to Vatican diplomats: "It is horrific even to think that there are children, victims of abortion, who will never see the light of day."

He criticised the world's disposable culture, which he said had grave consequences beyond environmental and material issues. "Unfortunately, what is thrown away is not only food and dispensable objects, but often human beings themselves, who are discarded as unnecessary," he said.

Roman Catholic conservatives have criticised the Pope for not speaking forcefully against abortion after he said last year that the Church should not be "obsessed" with issues such as terminations, homosexuality and contraception.

The Pontiff also wrote to the 19 senior clergymen who will be appointed cardinals at a consistory on Feb 22, including Vincent Nichols, the Archbishop of Westminster.

He told them their appointments were neither a promotion nor a cause for hubris, warning them not to be seduced by pomp and power. "I ask you, please, to receive this designation with a simple and humble heart. And, while you must do so with pleasure and joy, ensure that this sentiment is far from any expression of worldliness or from any form of celebration contrary to the evangelical spirit of austerity, sobriety and poverty."

D Tel

January 14 - 2014