**POPE APOLOGIZES**

On Wednesday, the Pontiff apologized for losing patience with the worshiper before using his [New Year's Day address](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200101_omelia-madredidio-pace.html) to denounce violence against women.

"Love makes us patient. So many times we lose patience, even me, and I apologize for yesterday's bad example," he said.

The Pontiff continued in his address: "[Women are sources of life](http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200101_omelia-madredidio-pace.html). Yet they are continually insulted, beaten, raped, forced to prostitute themselves and to suppress the life they bear in the womb.

"Every form of violence inflicted upon a woman is a blasphemy against God, who was born of a woman."

Prior to the incident, the woman had made the sign of the cross. She addressed the 83-year-old Pope as she took his hand but it is unclear what she was trying to tell him.

During his address on Wednesday, the Pontiff also spoke about gender equality, telling the congregation that women "should be fully included in decision-making processes."

"Every step forward for women, is a step forward for humanity as a whole."