

Pope Francis has said (1) _____ than COVID-19. He said gossip is a danger that divides communities. He added that the devil is the "biggest gossip" who is seeking (2) _____ with his lies. The Pope spoke (3) _____ of gossiping during his weekly blessing at the Vatican. He said: "Please brothers and sisters, let's try to not gossip. Gossip is (4) _____ than COVID. Worse. Let's make a big effort. No gossiping." The Pope has regularly spoken about (5) _____ gossiping, especially on social media. He advises people not to listen to Internet trolls, saying: "If something goes wrong, (6) _____ prayer for the brother or sister who make a mistake, but never gossip."

The Pope was making his first (7) _____ the pandemic started. His latest speech on gossip is not the first time he has (8) _____ on the topic. In 2016, he warned people not to "fuel the terrorism of gossip". He (9) _____ resist the temptation to spread gossip. He said: "If you get (10) _____ say something against a brother or a sister, to drop a gossip bomb, (11) _____. Hard." Two years later he brought the subject up again. He told worshippers in St Peter's Square that gossip is lethal "because the tongue kills, (12) _____. A visitor to the Vatican agreed. She said: "Gossips are nothing but scalmongers and busybodies."