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On September 24, 2015, Pope Francis addressed a joint meeting of Congress in a historical speech on Thursday morning. Throughout the popes speech, he addressed many things that need more attention in the world. For example, family, immigration, and violence to name a few. The pope also recognized four individuals who left an ever lasting mark on America, and the world. They were, Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King, Dorothy Day, and lastly Thomas Merton. In a political standpoint, I expected the popes speech to be more religious, but it was leaning towards just the good of the people, and what's expected of human beings. Regarding the beginning of the popes speech, he included the foundation of what made America, what it is today. The blood and and sacrifice that was involved in creating what fundamental values that America practices to this day.

The issues that the pope spoke about couldn't be more true. Family, there are so many broken families not only in America but the world. The pope is concerned about the idea of family, and how essential the family has been to the building of this country. Families fundamental relationships are being called into question, as the very basis of marriage and the family. Pope Francis particularly called attention to those family members who are the most vulnerable, the young. But most of them are trapped in a world full of violence, that will be their problem one day. Pope Francis says that it's up to the world leaders now to try and fix the problem of violence, and that we all need to face it together to seek effective solutions rather than just having discussions about it. The pope also touched on the subject of immigration. That once long ago we were all immigrants, and that we shouldn't fear the idea of it. That we shouldn't repeat the past, and send away the people who are only trying to better themselves. The pope also mentions refugees, and that we should treat them with the golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".

Throughout Pope Francis' speech he mentioned four well known people. Abraham Lincoln, The guardian of liberty, who labored tirelessly that this nation under God might have a new birth of freedom. Martin Luther King and his march to fulfill a dream for the political rights of African-Americans. Dorothy Day who founded the Catholic Worker Movement, her passion for justice for the cause of the oppressed. And lastly Thomas Merton, who was a spiritual inspiration and guide for many people. I think the pope mentions these people to connect the original American idea, to the present problems of the world. I believe he also mentioned it to remind the American people of our cultural heritage, and how only four people can change the world. In all, I believe the popes speech to be incredibly eye opening. As a global superpower, we have the power and the numbers to try and make a difference. Pope Francis just recognized all what is wrong in not only our country, but the world. It's amazing that he alone, a foreigner, can make a speech as powerful as such, that no politician can. Maybe the pope coming to America is the start of a new outlook on life, with all the media surrounding his visit, it shouldn't be hard for America to listen and start acting on what truly matters.