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Abstract: This article provides answers to the research question concerning the nature and the scope of metacommunicative reflection in the papal messages for the World Communication Days. The analysis of the papal messages juxtaposed against the speech act process allows the author to conclude that the papal communication-related reflection mostly focuses on the *message* and the *addressee*, while the *channel* or the *code* are less directly addressed. As for the first two focal points, the papal reflection concentrates around ethical and educational issues, while the latter two concepts tend to be discussed in the context of cultural changes and emergence of “new languages” of the media.

Mirroring the linguistic knowledge on communication, the papal messages also bring new impulses into communicological thought. This is, for instance, highlighting the importance of silence in human communication (Benedict XVI) or authentic listening to others, as distinct from the mere sense of hearing (Francis).