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Pope Francis denounced the spread of “fake news” as the divisive work of the devil and called on journalists to serve as “protectors of news” by practicing accuracy and fairness, which he called essential to promoting world peace. The pope’s remarks, published Wednesday, came in his annual message for the Catholic Church’s World Day of Social Communications, May 13. It was the first papal document on the subject of “fake news.”

Defining fake news as “disinformation online or in the traditional media,” Pope Francis wrote that it commonly exploits “stereotypes and common social prejudices” and thrives in “homogenous digital environments” such as social networks where it is unchallenged by other information sources. [The pope](#) wrote that fake news can serve political or economic interests, but he did not refer or allude to specific cases. “The tragedy of disinformation is that it discredits others, presenting them as enemies, to the point of demonizing them and fomenting conflict,” the pope wrote, whereas true statements tend to “promote informed and mature reflection leading to constructive dialogue.” The pope portrayed latter-day makers of fake news as followers of the serpent in the Garden of Eden, the devil, who persuaded Eve to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil and thus ushered in the “tragic history of human sin.”

Pope Francis praised education and [regulation to combat fake news](#), and encouraged tech and media companies in efforts [to verify the “personal identities concealed behind millions of digital profiles.”](#) But the pope laid the greatest responsibility with journalists, whom he called on to reject “falsehoods, rhetorical slogans and sensational headlines” in favor of a “journalism of peace.” Wednesday’s document isn’t the first time the pope has called on journalists to raise their standards. In a December 2016 interview, he likened the interest in scandal among the press and the public to coprophilia and coprophagy—sexual and eating disorders involving excrement. – *Wall Street Journal*

Meg Whitman, the former head of **eBay** Inc. and the [departing chief executive](#) of [Hewlett Packard Enterprise](#) Co. , is joining Jeffrey Katzenberg’s WndrCo LLC as the first CEO in the media and tech venture’s planned portfolio of companies. Ms. Whitman will run WndrCo’s NewTV, a mobile-video company that Mr. Katzenberg has been building for the past year, the company announced Wednesday. NewTV is the startup’s working name.

Ms. Whitman, 61 years old, is among the most prominent leaders in Silicon Valley, but the new role at a video startup is a departure for an executive who most recently oversaw the split of one of the world’s largest computer hardware companies. “It’s a return to my startup roots,” said Ms. Whitman, who began at eBay when it had 30 employees in 1998 and left when it had 15,000, a decade later. Ms. Whitman will be charged with building an online service, securing production partnerships and building a team at NewTV, which will target the 18- to 34-year-olds who have driven the rise in mobile-video viewing over the past several years.

The platform will offer high-budget short videos that users can watch while standing in line or riding the bus, some as one-off stories and others as pieces of a larger narrative. Mr. Katzenberg has described the effort as bringing the top-drawer production values of Hollywood to the often low-rent world of mobile video. With tenures at Walt Disney Co. and DreamWorks Animation SKG Inc., Mr. Katzenberg, 67, made his name and fortune in family entertainment. But WndrCo aims to have a much broader reach through an assortment of holdings. He [started the company](#) after selling DreamWorks Animation in 2016 to Comcast Corp.’s NBCUniversal for \$3.8 billion. WndrCo is being set up similarly to Barry Diller’s IAC/InterActive Corp., a company with varied investments and holdings that include dating services like Match.com and Tinder and the Vimeo online-video site. WndrCo recently invested in the Axios news startup, but NewTV is Mr. Katzenberg’s first venture under the WndrCo umbrella.

Ms. Whitman’s tenure at eBay made her one of the country’s most prominent female executives. From 2011 to 2015, she was CEO of Hewlett-Packard Co., overseeing the separation of the company into Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. and HP Inc. Ms. Whitman, who announced she was leaving HP Enterprise last November, will move to Los Angeles for the NewTV job and begin March 1. “I’m employee No. 1,” she said. Ms. Whitman and Mr. Katzenberg have known each other for 25 years, having worked together at Disney, where she was an executive during the 1980s. Ms. Whitman

served on the DreamWorks Animation board, and Hewlett-Packard powered the animation tools used by the family entertainment studio.

The lines between Hollywood and Silicon Valley have become increasingly blurred in recent years, as tech firms like Amazon.com Inc. and Apple Inc. spend millions on producing original content that competes with traditional film studios. At the same time entertainment companies are increasingly interested in [reaching consumers via their own online services](#), rather than through intermediaries such as Amazon, Apple or Netflix Inc. Mr. Katzenberg's WndrCo is trying to straddle both worlds by investing in media and tech ventures, and his company has [raised nearly \\$600 million](#) so far. Mr. Katzenberg's founding partners at WndrCo are Ann Daly, a longtime lieutenant of his from DreamWorks Animation, and Sujay Jaswa, a venture capitalist. NewTV is already in talks with the six major Hollywood studios about having them produce videos for the service. "I think it's one of the most disruptive and timely ideas I've seen in my career," said Ms. Whitman. "And I've seen a thousand startups." – *Wall Street Journal*

