

Who Is Pope Francis

Pope Francis

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Pope Francis (born Jorge Mario Bergoglio; 17 December 1936 – 21 April 2025) was head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State from 13 March 2013 until his death in 2025. He was the first Jesuit pope, the first Latin American, and the first born or raised outside Europe since the 8th-century Syrian pope Gregory III.

Born and raised in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to a family of Italian origin, Bergoglio was inspired to join the Jesuits in 1958 after recovering from a severe illness. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 1969, and from 1973 to 1979 he was the Jesuit provincial superior in Argentina. He became the archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998 and was created a cardinal in 2001 by Pope John Paul II. Following the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI, the 2013 papal conclave elected Bergoglio as pope on 13 March. He chose Francis as his papal name in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Throughout his papacy, Francis was noted for his humility, emphasis on God's mercy, international visibility, commitment to interreligious dialogue, and concern for the poor, migrants, and refugees. Francis believed the Catholic Church should demonstrate more inclusivity to LGBTQ people, and stated that although blessings of same-sex unions are not permitted, individuals in same-sex relationships can be blessed as long as the blessing is not given in a liturgical context. Francis made women full members of dicasteries in the Roman Curia. Francis convened the Synod on Synodality, which was described as the culmination of his papacy and the most important event in the Catholic Church since the Second Vatican Council. Francis was known for having a less formal approach to the papacy than his predecessors by, for instance, choosing to reside in the Domus Sanctae Marthae guesthouse rather than in the papal apartments of the Apostolic Palace used by previous popes. In addition, due to both his Jesuit and Ignatian aesthetic, he was known for favoring simpler vestments devoid of ornamentation, including refusing the traditional papal mozzetta cape upon his election, choosing silver instead of gold for his piscatory ring, and keeping the same pectoral cross he had as cardinal.

Concerning global governance, Francis was a critic of trickle-down economics, consumerism, and overdevelopment; he made action on climate change a leading focus of his papacy. He viewed capital punishment as inadmissible in all cases, and committed the Catholic Church to its worldwide abolition. Francis criticized the rise of right-wing populism and anti-immigration politics, calling the protection of migrants a "duty of civilization". Francis supported the decriminalization of homosexuality. In international diplomacy, Francis helped to restore full diplomatic relations between Cuba and the United States, negotiated a deal with the People's Republic of China to define Communist Party influence in appointing Chinese bishops, and encouraged peace between Israel and Palestinians, signing the Vatican's first treaty with the State of Palestine. In 2022 he apologized for the Church's role in the cultural genocide of Canadian Indigenous peoples in residential schools. From 2023 he condemned Israel's military operations in Gaza, calling for investigations of war crimes. Francis made his last public appearance on Easter Sunday before dying on 21 April 2025, Easter Monday. The 2025 conclave elected Leo XIV as Francis's successor on 8 May. Leo XIV became the second pope from the Americas, after Francis.

Death and funeral of Pope Francis

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On 21 April 2025 (Easter Monday), at 07:35 CEST (UTC+2), Pope Francis died at the age of 88 at Domus Sanctae Marthae in Vatican City. His death was announced by Cardinal Kevin Farrell, the Camerlengo, in a broadcast by Vatican Media and in a video statement at 09:45 on the same day. Francis had served as pope, the head of the Catholic Church, for twelve years since his election on 13 March 2013. He was the second pope to die in office in the 21st century, after John Paul II in 2005.

Francis's death followed a five-week stay in hospital a month earlier, where he suffered from a respiratory tract infection and double pneumonia. The cause of his death was officially registered as a stroke followed by irreversible cardiac arrest. Francis's Requiem Mass was celebrated on 26 April, five days after his death, and he was buried at Santa Maria Maggiore. The consequent conclave, which began on 7 May, elected Robert Francis Prevost as Francis's successor, who took the papal name Leo XIV, and was inaugurated on 18 May.

Pope Leo XIV

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Pope Leo XIV (born Robert Francis Prevost, September 14, 1955) is the head of the Catholic Church and sovereign of the Vatican City State. He is the first pope to have been born in the United States and North America, the first to hold American and Peruvian citizenships, the first born after World War II, the first from the Order of Saint Augustine, and the second from the Americas after his predecessor Pope Francis.

Prevost was born in Chicago and raised in the nearby suburb of Dolton, Illinois. He became a friar of the Order of Saint Augustine in 1977 and was ordained as a priest in 1982. He earned a Doctor of Canon Law (JCD) degree in 1987, from the Pontifical University of Saint Thomas Aquinas in Rome. His service includes extensive missionary work in Peru in the 1980s and 1990s, where he worked as a parish pastor, diocesan official, seminary teacher, and administrator. Elected prior general of the Order of Saint Augustine, he was based in Rome from 2001 to 2013, and extensively traveled to the order's provinces around the world. He then returned to Peru as Bishop of Chiclayo from 2015 to 2023. In 2023, Pope Francis appointed him prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in Rome, and president of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

Made a cardinal by Pope Francis, Prevost emphasized synodality, missionary dialogue, and engagement with social and technological challenges. He also engaged with issues such as climate change, global migration, church governance, and human rights, and expressed alignment with the reforms of the Second Vatican Council.

Prevost's election in the 2025 conclave was unexpected by observers; he was a dark horse candidate, with Vatican insiders believing the prospect of a pope from the United States to be unrealistic so long as the country has the status of a superpower. He took his papal name in honor of Pope Leo XIII, who developed modern Catholic social teaching amid the Second Industrial Revolution, and has been interpreted as a response to the challenges of a new industrial revolution and artificial intelligence.

Theology of Pope Francis

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Elected on 13 March 2013, Francis was the first member of the Society of Jesus to be appointed pope. He was also the first non-European to hold the office since Gregory III (r. 731–741). Francis described his papal name as pointing to what he wants to emulate in Saint Francis of Assisi: to have a poor church for the poor, to always go out to the margins, and to show concern for the natural environment.

Francis' papal motto, *Miserando atque eligendo* ("by having mercy and by choosing"), contained a central theme of his papacy, God's mercy, which led to conflict with some Catholics on issues such as the reception

of Communion by remarried Catholics. In addressing real-life situations, Francis often appealed directly to his experience, in continuity with his synodal way, which shows a renewed emphasis on listening and dialogue. He also placed greater emphasis on church synods and on widespread consultation and dialogue, thus uplifting the roles of laypersons and of women in the Catholic church and criticizing clericalism.

Francis' concern for the poor was noted in his critiques of capitalism, his quite visible support of refugees and migrants, and his outreach to liberationist, anarchist, communist, socialist, and liberal movements in Latin America that were under a cloud during the papacy of John Paul II. Regarding his interpretation of the Doctrine of the Catholic Church, Francis stated that he considers himself to be conservative.

His apostolic exhortation, *Evangelii gaudium* (Joy of the Gospel), released eight months after his election, were described as programmatic and "a core document of this pontificate", which in his own words purports to point out "new paths for the Church's journey for years to come". He was also known for his "sharp and unscripted remarks".

List of saints canonized by Pope Francis

Pope Francis (2013–2025) during his pontificate, which includes the 813 Martyrs of Otranto as a group, 23 who were equipollently canonized and 4 who were

This article contains a list of the 942 saints canonized by Pope Francis (2013–2025) during his pontificate, which includes the 813 Martyrs of Otranto as a group, 23 who were equipollently canonized and 4 who were canonized in other countries.

Reactions to the death of Pope Francis

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Pope Francis, aged 88, died on 21 April 2025, prompting reactions from around the world. Condolences were offered by heads of state and government, as well as by officials of the Catholic Church and other Christian and religious leaders.

List of pastoral visits of Pope Francis

During his reign, Pope Francis made 34 pastoral visits within Italy and 47 foreign trips, visiting 66 countries in the process. His visit to the Philippines

During his reign, Pope Francis made 34 pastoral visits within Italy and 47 foreign trips, visiting 66 countries in the process. His visit to the Philippines in January 2015 included the largest papal event in history with around 6–7 million attendees in his final Mass at Manila, surpassing the then-largest papal event at World Youth Day 1995 in the same venue twenty years earlier.

The New Pope

malleable, Franciscan-inspired candidate: Cardinal Viglietti, who becomes Pope Francis II. However, Viglietti quickly asserts himself with sweeping, radical

The New Pope is a satirical drama television series created and directed by Paolo Sorrentino for Sky Atlantic, HBO and Canal+. It is a continuation of the 2016 series *The Young Pope*, originally announced as its second season. The nine-episode series stars Jude Law, reprising his role as the fictional Pope Pius XIII, and John Malkovich as the fictional Pope John Paul III, the titular new pope. It was co-produced by European production companies The Apartment Pictures, Wildside, Haut et Court TV and Mediapro.

The series premiered on 10 January 2020 on Sky Atlantic in Italy.

Hope (Pope Francis memoir)

Hope: The Autobiography is a memoir by Pope Francis (born Jorge Mario Bergoglio). It was first published by Random House on 14 January 2025 (three months

Hope: The Autobiography is a memoir by Pope Francis (born Jorge Mario Bergoglio). It was first published by Random House on 14 January 2025 (three months before his death), with the publisher describing it as the first memoir ever published by a sitting pope. The book is based on notes from interviews that Francis conducted with the Italian journalist Carlo Musso over six years. Francis discusses his childhood in Buenos Aires, the conclave that elected him pope, and his direction of the church after his election.

Visit by Pope Francis to Canada

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Pope Francis visited Canada from July 24 to 29, 2022, with stops in the provinces of Alberta and Quebec and the territory of Nunavut. The trip mainly focused on apologizing for the Catholic Church's role in the Canadian Indian residential school system and on reconciliation with the country's Indigenous peoples. It was the first papal visit to Canada since 2002, when Pope John Paul II visited Toronto for World Youth Day.

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