



Pope Francis

born Jorge Mario Bergoglio
on December 17, 1936
in Flores, Buenos Aires,
Argentina



chose the name *Francis*
in honour of Saint Francis of Assisi



Motto

Miserando atque eligendo
("by having mercy, by choosing him")



The number of countries
Pope Francis is a citizen of;
Argentina, Italy and the Vatican

A 21st Century Pope of Firsts

The 1st
Latin American
Pope

The 1st Pope
from the
Americas

The 1st Pope from the
Southern Hemisphere



The 1st Non-European
Pope in nearly
1,300 years



The 1st
Jesuit
Pope in History

The 1st
Francis



1969

Ordained a priest



1998

Became Archbishop
of Buenos Aires



2001

Became a cardinal
(by Pope John Paul II)



2013

266th Pope,
elected on March 13, 2023

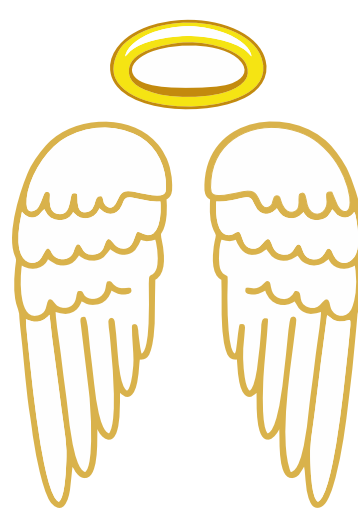
Only **seven**
popes in the
last **1,000 years**
were canonized;
the last before
2014 was **Pius X**.

JOHN XXIII & JOHN PAUL II

were declared saints by Pope Francis
in April 2014. It was the **first time in
history** that two popes were
canonized at the same time.

In the first
500 years of the
Catholic Church,
52 of the
first 55 popes
were canonized.

During his papacy, John Paul II
canonized nearly **500 saints**.
Prior to his efforts, there were
only about **300 canonizations**
over the preceding **600 years**.



Pope Francis canonized **813** people
in his first such ceremony. They were
the "**Martyrs of Otranto**," beheaded in
1480 by Ottoman soldiers for
refusing to convert to Islam.



The Coat of Arms of Pope Francis

THE SHIELD

Pope Francis has decided to keep his previous coat of arms, chosen at the time of his episcopal consecration and marked by linear simplicity.

The blue shield is surmounted by the symbols of papal dignity, the same as those used by his Predecessor Benedict XVI (the mitre above crossed keys of gold and silver, bound by the red cord). At the top of the shield is the emblem of Pope's religious order, the Society of Jesus: a radiant sun carrying the letters in red, *ihs*, the monogram of Jesus. The letter *h* is crowned by a cross; beneath the letters are three black nails.

Lower down on the shield there is a star and spikenard flower. The star, according to ancient armorial tradition, symbolizes the Virgin Mary, the Mother of Christ and the Church; while the spikenard symbolizes St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church. In traditional Hispanic iconography, St Joseph is shown with a vine in his hand. By bearing these images on his shield, the Pope communicates his special devotion to the Most Holy Virgin and to St Joseph.

THE MOTTO

The motto of Pope Francis is taken from a passage from the venerable Bede, Homily 21 (CCL 122, 149-151), on the Feast of Matthew, which reads: *Vidit ergo Jesus publicanum, et quia miserando atque eligendo vidit, ait illi, 'Sequere me'*. [Jesus therefore sees the tax collector, and since he sees by having mercy and by choosing, he says to him, 'follow me'.]

This homily is a tribute to Divine Mercy and is read during the Liturgy of the Hours on the Feast of St Matthew. This has particular significance in the life and spirituality of the Pope. In fact, on the Feast of St Matthew in 1953, the young Jorge Bergoglio experienced, at the age of 17, in a very special way, the loving presence of God in his life. Following confession, he felt his heart touched and he sensed the descent of the Mercy of God, who with a gaze of tender love, called him to religious life, following the example of St Ignatius of Loyola.

Once he had been ordained a Bishop, H.E. Mons. Bergoglio, in memory of this event that signified the beginning of his total consecration to God in His Church, chose, as his motto and as his programme of life, the words of St Bede: *miserando atque eligendo*. This he has chosen to keep in his papal coat of arms.

