

Remembering Pope Francis

Pope Francis died Monday, April 21 at 7:35 a.m. It was the day after Easter. He was 88 years old. The pope didn't preside over most of his usual activities for Holy Week this year. He had recently spent weeks in the hospital with pneumonia and other health issues.

Pope Francis was elected as the Church's leader in 2013 after the previous pope, Benedict XVI, resigned. Before his election as the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Francis was known as Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

When elected pope in 2013, Pope Francis led a more modern Church. Technology allowed millions of people to learn the news of his election. He asked the world to pray for him. He soon counted millions among his followers on social media websites. He was the first pope to take the name of Francis of Assisi. He focused on how Christ works in our lives, and he cared for migrants and the poorest among us. He established the World Day for the Poor and washed the feet of prisoners in Rome on Holy Thursday celebrations until this year, when his health only allowed him to visit.



Bibliography of Pope Francis

**December 17, 1936—
April 21, 2025**

Full name:
Jorge Mario Bergoglio

Birthplace:
Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ordained as priest:
December 13, 1969

Ordained bishop:
May 20, 1992

Bishop of Buenos Aires:
February 28, 1998

Elevated to cardinal:
February 21, 2001

Elected pope:
March 13, 2013, aged 76

Remember Use the following space to draw a picture of or write about your favorite memory of Pope Francis.



Let Us Pray

Prayer for the Soul of Pope Francis

Dear God:

Thank you for the life of Pope Francis. He showed us how to care for the poor and migrants and others who need our love. We thank you for his teaching on our relationships with you and with each other. We will remember him and renew ourselves as Pilgrims of Hope during this Jubilee Year that Pope Francis announced in December. We pray for Pope Francis on his passing and ask you, Lord, to draw him into the light of your presence and grant eternal rest to your good and faithful servant. Amen.

What happens next when a pope dies in office?

Church documents say the funeral and burial of a pope who dies in office should happen within four to six days. The exact date is decided by the cardinals who can arrive at the Vatican immediately after the pope's death. The funeral will begin nine days of mourning for the Church.

Then there will be a new pope elected in what is called a conclave. It can start when all the cardinals eligible to vote arrive at the Vatican. It usually takes 15 to 20 days for the conclave to begin. Cardinals eligible to vote are those under 80 years old. They are called cardinal-electors.

During the conclave, the cardinal-electors go to the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican. They take an oath of secrecy, and the doors of the chapel are sealed. The cardinals hold secret ballot votes. Each ballot is folded and dropped into a large chalice following a prayer.

Funeral and Burial

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Conclave

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New Pope Selected

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If no one receives two-thirds of the vote, the ballots are burned in a stove near the chapel with a mixture of chemicals to produce black smoke. When someone receives two-thirds of the votes, the person must accept and choose a papal name. The ballots this time are burned with chemicals to produce white smoke to signal to the world that there is a new pope. The new pontiff dresses in papal vestments, then appears on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica.



Sources: Alive in Christ Kerygma; U.S. Council of Catholic Bishops; OSV News; Vatican.va; Photos from OSV News