



Grades 3-5 Resource Guide

WHY IS THIS VISIT IMPORTANT?

Why is This Visit Important to Us?

Students will be able to make a connection between the importance of the papal visit and the practice of their own Catholic faith. (To prepare younger students: Why do people travel instead of just making a phone call or sending an email? Do any of the students have parents who have to travel for their work? Where do they travel? Did anyone have a relative visit for Christmas or a birthday? Why is a visit from a relative more special than a phone call or even a video from the same relative?)

Why is the Visit of Pope Francis Important to the Church of the United States?

- Pope Francis wants the Church to witness the mercy of God to all people. He wants us to show the love and forgiveness of God everywhere - in our homes and schools, on our teams with our neighbors.
- He promotes church unity with his apostolic visits. An apostolic journey is a trip to different parts of the world to spread God's word and join with other Christians in dialogue and prayer. His trip to Washington will be part of an apostolic visit. He will also visit New York and Philadelphia when he comes to the United States.
- The Pope signifies the visible unity of the Church and of the spiritual communion of all of the faithful who are members of the Body of Christ.
- This visit of Pope Francis matters to us because he is the visible presence of the universal Church. He teaches the need for love and mercy in the world. The world needs both love and mercy.

What will the Pope Do While He is Here?

The Pope is coming to the United States to

- Meet with the local Church
- Teach his people directly
- Encourage the Church to remain faithful to the Gospel
- Spread the message of God's love and mercy and our call to serve the poor
- Canonize Junipero Serra
- Meet with the President of the United States
- Speak to Congress in Washington, DC
- Make a presentation to world leaders at the United Nations (UN) in New York City
- Speak on the importance of family at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

Suggested Activities:

- Make prayer cards in honor of Pope Francis. Write your own prayer on one side, and then draw or place a picture of the Holy Father on the other.
- Discuss with students what questions they would ask the Pope if they were able to meet him
- We share in the apostolic work of the church. Spread the good news of our faith by designing a marketing campaign – posters, bumper stickers, pennants, TV commercials – all of which are designed to promote God's message to the modern world.

Related Enrichment Resources:

- <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/index.cfm>
- <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/papal-visit-2015/index.cfm>
- <http://www.worldmeeting2015.org/papal-visit/>

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