



Grades 6-8 Resource Guide

WHY IS THIS VISIT IMPORTANT?

Why is This Visit Important?

- The Pope signifies the visible unity of the Church and of the spiritual communion of all the faithful who are members of the Body of Christ.
- His visit will remind us of our union with others throughout the universal Church.
- As the chief shepherd of the Church, he is making an apostolic visit to us to show his love and care.

What Will the Pope Do While He is Here?

- 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:

- Discuss these questions in a small group setting:
 - a. What would you expect to experience seeing the Pope in person that you could not experience if watching on TV?
 - b. What have you learned when you have traveled that you could not have learned if you did not make the trip?
- As a large group, make a list of the things the Pope might learn by coming here that he could not learn from watching television, surfing the internet, or reading newspapers.
- Pray for the an end to the persecutions of Christians and for the Holy Father's safe travel

- Have the students reflect on how they can impact their world/lives based on the example and teachings of the Pope (service, conflict resolution, leadership, community building). What concrete things can we do to better our world and assist the Pope in fulfilling Christ's mission?

Related Enrichment Resources:

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