



Grades 9-12 Resource Guide

WHY IS THIS VISIT IMPORTANT?

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- 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 a pastoral visit to us to show us that he loves and cares for us.

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 U. N. in New York City
- Speak on the importance of family at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

Suggested Activities:

- Have students explore how Francis's papacy has already impacted the world. Have students research his stance on spiritual, social and justice issues. Students can then make a Power Point and/or report on the material in class.
- 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?

- Invite the youth to create a “Top Ten” list of issues that impact the lives of young people today. Using the Vatican News Service (www.vis.pcn.net) and www.catholicnews.com, invite the youth to answer the following question: What does this Pope or previous popes say about these issues? Invite the youth to reflect on the Pope’s message and its impact on the lives of teens. And, what concrete things can they do to better our world and assist the Pope in fulfilling Christ’s mission?

Related Enrichment Resources:

- http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/papa-francesco_esortazione-ap_20131124_evangelii-gaudium.html
- <http://www.news.va/en>
- <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/index.cfm>