



## Grades K-2 Resource Guide

### WHO IS POPE FRANCIS?

#### Who is Pope Francis?

- Born as Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936
- Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina
- He was baptized on Christmas Day, 1936
- Went to school to study chemistry
- He felt like God wanted him to be a priest so he studied and prayed to become a priest
- Ordained as a priest on December 13, 1969
- He became a bishop 25 years later
- He was elected to be pope on March 13, 2013
- The first pope from the Americas
- He speaks four languages: Spanish, Italian, English, French, and German
- He likes to cook
- Enjoys pizza and ice cream
- Soccer is his favorite sport

#### Suggested Activities:

- Color a picture of the Pope. Have your class pray for him. (From the day of his election as Pope he has asked us to all pray for him.)
- Print a map outline of South America or Argentina. Have students color a map of Argentina and find the Pope's birthplace, Buenos Aires.
- Create a timeline of his life events. You can find a timeline at <http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer>.
- Papal Keys: These keys represent the keys to the kingdom of heaven that Jesus originally gave to Peter. The symbolism continues today as the College of Cardinals is locked in the

Sistine Chapel when electing a new pope. The keys are also represented on the pope's coat of arms.

Print the outline of a key for each student. The teacher or students write a positive character trait that describes each student. This trait is then be written on the key and made into a necklace using string. Present these necklaces in a "Good Character Trait" ceremony.

- **Papal Ring:** The papal ring is worn on the fourth finger of the right hand. The image on the ring is of St. Peter fishing in a boat. The papal name is imprinted around the perimeter of the ring. It is made of gold and is unique to each pope. Using fast-hardening modeling clay, have students design a ring with a round face. Use a toothpick to draw the Christian symbol of a fish on the round face of the ring. Or, use a rubber stamp to stamp the fish symbol on the round face.
- **Pectoral Cross:** This is the cross that is worn around the pope's neck and lies on his heart. All bishops wear pectoral crosses. The pope is a bishop. Have students cut out a cross from an index card. Then have students cover the cross with aluminum foil. Punch a hole at the top of the cross. Place string through the hole and tie around the student's neck to fashion a necklace. Make sure the string's length permits the cross to rest on the child's heart.
- **Papal Coat of Arms:** Every pope has his own personal coat of arms. Pope Francis decided to keep the coat of arms from when he was bishop with a few modifications to show that he is now Pope. The papal coat of arms traditionally features a gold and silver key, representing the power to bind and to loose on earth (silver) and in heaven (gold). Pope Francis's coat of arms includes a bright blue shield in the middle of which is a yellow sun and letters IHS representing both Jesus and the pope's religious order, the Jesuits. Underneath the sun is a star representing Mary, the Mother of Jesus. There is also a spikenard flower that represents St. Joseph. For more information about Pope Francis and his coat of arms, visit the USCCB website at <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/index.cfm>

Have students create their own coat of arms using the lesson resource. Discuss with students different faith symbols they might want to include on their Coat of Arms. Remember that the Coat of Arms should represent what they think is most important in a faith life. Students can share what their coat of arms represent in small groups. You might encourage the students to include a motto for their Coat of Arms.

### **Related Enrichment Resources:**

- The Vatican website's section on Pope Francis, <http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en.html>
- The USCCB website's section on Pope Francis, <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/index.cfm>
- EWTN's website on Pope Francis, <http://ewtn.com/popefrancis/index.html>
- How to be Pope, What to Do and Where to Go Once You're in the Vatican, Piers Marchant, Chronicle Books, 2005

## Where does Pope Francis live?

Vatican City is located in Rome, Italy. The Pope lives here because he is the Bishop of Rome. It takes an hour to walk around the entire country. There are 1,000 residents. It contains a supermarket, library, railroad, pharmacy, department store, post office, gas station, and museums. But the most important building is St. Peter's Basilica. It is so large it would hold 6 football fields! The Basilica is where the pope celebrates Mass. Underneath the Basilica there is actually another church. This is known as the Tomb of the Popes. Archeological excavation has recently revealed the tomb of St. Peter to be directly below the main altar of the Basilica.

For the past one hundred years popes have lived in special apartments in the Apostolic Palace at Vatican City. Pope Francis is known for living a simple life so he has decided to live in the Vatican guesthouse. He has an apartment and space to meet his many guests.

## Suggested Activities:

- Papal Miter: For Mass and other special ceremonies, all bishops wear a hat called a "miter." Since the Pope is a bishop, he also wears a miter which is a cloth crown with two points to represent the Old and New Testaments.

Use 2 pieces of construction paper and cut each sheet into a spade (shovel) shape. Then staple the sides to fit each individual student's head. Then take a third piece of construction paper. Cut it lengthwise and attach it to the back of the hat. This design can also be used with a brown paper bag.

N.B., A description and explanation of the Papal wardrobe can be found on page 24 and 25 in the book *"How to be Pope."*

## Related Enrichment Resources:

*How to be Pope, What to Do and Where to Go Once You're in the Vatican*, Piers Marchant, Chronicle Books, 2005

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