



## Grades K-2 Resource Guide

### WHY IS THIS VISIT IMPORTANT?

#### **Why is this visit important to us?**

The Holy Father is a direct successor of St. Peter. As such, he represents the entire Catholic Church. He is the pastor of us all and is paying us a visit as such. He reminds us that we belong not only to a particular parish in a particular diocese, but we also belong to the Catholic Church around the world.

The Pope is also a continuing example of Jesus' mission here on earth. He reminds us that just as he brings the Good News to all people, we also are called to bring the Good News to people we meet. We are all ambassadors for Christ. (2 Cor 5:20, "So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us.")

#### **Suggested Activities:**

- The idea of a successor may be developed by using concrete examples of things the children know. Is there a new teacher at school? This teacher was a "successor" of the last teacher. Or, do teachers take turns with various jobs, perhaps recess, bus or lunch duty? Or, has a child moved into a new house? Who lived in the house before they did? Or, is there a student of the week each week? The next student of the week is the "successor" of the student of the week before. Teachers may want to develop the idea that God provides for us by having many people born with different talents and gifts, so that when one person is finished with their work, another person with a similar gift can do the same work for us.
- To demonstrate that the student understands papal succession, ask them to fold a large piece of paper in half. At the top of each side write the following names: "St. Peter" and "Pope Francis." Have students illustrate by drawing examples of actions of St. Peter and actions of Pope Francis to see similarities. Examples might be kind actions, prayers, preaching, leading, serving those in need, etc. Students will share their drawings in pairs.

## Why is the Mission of Pope Francis Important?

- 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.
- 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.
- As a sign of our faith, and in honor of the Pope's visit, it has been suggested that we make a special effort to go out into the community and be living examples of our faith and witnesses to the mercy of God, especially by serving the poor, the lonely, the sick and elderly.

## Suggested Activities:

- To bring love and hope to your community, have your class participate in some type of outreach for those in need. Some mission suggestions are:
  - Make sandwiches for the homeless
  - Make cards for the elderly in nursing homes
  - Donate canned goods for your local food pantry
  - Donate gently used books to children living in poverty.

## Related Enrichment Resources:

- <http://www.usccb.org/about/leadership/holy-see/francis/papal-visit-2015/index.cfm>
- *How to be Pope, What to Do and Where to Go Once You're in the Vatican*, Piers Marchant, Chronicle Books, 2005