



THE KEYS TO THE KINGDOM

HIS HOLINESS, POPE FRANCIS

THE 265TH SUCCESSOR OF SAINT PETER



Biography

Pope Francis was 76 years old when he was elected on March 13, 2013, on the fifth ballot of the 2013 Conclave. At the time, the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, as well as Ordinary for Eastern-rite faithful in Argentina who lack an Ordinary of their own rite. Besides his native Spanish, he also speaks Italian, German, French, and English.

Early Life and Education

He was born on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Italian immigrants. His father Mario was an accountant employed by the railways, while his mother Regina Sivori was dedicated to raising and educating their five children. Coming of age during the regime of Juan Perón (1946-55), young Jorge graduated as a chemical technician, but he later discerned a vocation and entered the Diocesan Seminary of Villa Devoto in Buenos Aires.

On March 11, 1958, he entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) and moved to study in Chile. After completing his studies in the humanities, Jorge returned to Argentina in 1963 to graduate with a licentiate in philosophy from the Colegio de San José in San Miguel de Tucumán. From 1964 to 1965, he taught literature and psychology at Colegio de la Inmaculada in Santa Fé, and in 1966 he taught at Colegio de San José.

Father Jorge Bergoglio

The future Pope was ordained a priest for the Jesuits at age 33 on December 13, 1969. Father Jorge transferred to Spain to continue his training at the University of Alcalá de Henares, and on April 22, 1973, he made his final profession with the Jesuits.

Returning to Argentina, the young priest was master of novices at Villa Barilari, San Miguel, professor at the Faculty of Theology of San Miguel, consultor to the Province of the Society of Jesus, and Rector of the Colegio maximo of the Faculty of Philosophy and Theology. From 1973 to 1979, he served as Provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina. He then returned to academia, serving again as Rector of the Colegio de San José, as well as parish priest in San Miguel from 1980 to 1986. In March 1986, Father Jorge studied in Germany to finish his doctoral thesis before returning to Argentina to serve as spiritual director and confessor at Colegio del Salvador in Buenos Aires and the Jesuit Church in Córdoba.

Bishop Jorge Bergoglio

When Cardinal Antonio Quarracino expressed that he wanted Father Jorge to be a close collaborator in Buenos Aires, Blessed Pope John Paul II appointed him titular Bishop of Auca and Auxiliary of Buenos Aires. On June 27, 1992, he was ordained a bishop, and he adopted

episcopal motto, *Miserando atque eligendo* which means, “because he saw him through the eyes of mercy and chose him.” He was named Episcopal Vicar of the Flores district and in December 1993, he was also appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese. Bishop Bergoglio was made Coadjutor Archbishop of Buenos Aires on June 3, 1997. Later that year, he participated in the 1997 Special Assembly for America of the Synod of Bishops.

Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio

Cardinal Quaracino died shortly thereafter, on February 28, 1998, and Bishop Bergoglio succeeded him as Archbishop, Primate of Argentina, and Ordinary for Eastern-rite faithful in Argentina who have no Ordinary of their own rite. He was created and proclaimed Cardinal by John Paul II in the consistory of February 21, 2001, and assigned the titular church of Saint Robert Bellarmine.

In October 2001, Cardinal Bergoglio served as Adjunct Relator General at the Synod on “The Bishop: Servant of the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the Hope of the World,” and he presented the Report.

Cardinal Bergoglio was elected President of the Bishops' Conference of Argentina in 2005 – a post that he had declined three years earlier – and he was re-elected to a second three-year term in 2008. Meanwhile, he participated in the 2005 Conclave which elected Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger as Pope Benedict XVI.

Taking up the call of Pope Benedict and Pope John Paul before him, Cardinal Bergoglio promoted evangelization, and he helped draft the concluding document on the revitalization of the faith in Latin America which was adopted at the Aparecida Conference in 2007. As Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he conceived of a missionary project which focused on communion and evangelization. He had four main goals: open and brotherly communities; an informed laity to play a leading role; evangelization addressed to every inhabitant of the city; and assistance to the poor and the sick.

Cardinal Bergoglio was appointed to various offices at the Vatican, including serving at the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, the Congregation for Clergy, the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, the Pontifical Council for the Family and the Pontifical Commission for Latin America.

Pope Francis

Jorge Mario Bergoglio's election as Supreme Pontiff marks the first time a Jesuit has become Pope. He is also the first non-European elected since Saint Pope Gregory III from Syria in 731, the first Pope from the New World ever, and the first since Pope Lando (913-914) to have not shared a name with a prior Pope. Because there has been no Francis II, protocol is that he is not called Pope Francis I, but simply Pope Francis.

After his election, it was disclosed that he chose the name with the humble Saint Francis of Assisi in mind, but there have been other great saints by that name, including Francis Xavier and Francis de Sales. Francis of Assisi is known for his efforts to spread the faith and to revitalize the Church.

Pope Francis has become known for personal humility and a simple lifestyle. Before his papal election, he lived in a small apartment, rather than in the bishop's residence. He gave up his chauffeured limousine in favor of public transportation, and he usually cooked his own meals.