

Remembering POPE FRANCIS

1936—2025

Biography

Pope Francis—born Jorge Mario Bergolio on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina—was elected Supreme Pontiff, the 266th pope of the Catholic Church, on March 13, 2013. He is the first Jesuit pope and the first pope from the Americas. Before his election, he served as Archbishop of Buenos Aires and was made a cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 2001. As pope, he emphasized pastoral care, evangelization, and the centrality of God’s mercy.



Papal Motto

Pope Francis’ motto, *Miserando atque eligendo* (“by having mercy and by choosing”), comes from a homily by St. Bede on the call of St. Matthew. This phrase held deep personal significance for Pope Francis as he experienced a profound encounter with God’s mercy on the Feast of St. Matthew in 1953, which led him to his vocation.

Prayer for Pope Francis

O God, who in your Divine Providence chose your servant Pope Francis to be counted among the shepherds of your Church, grant, we beseech you, that through your mercy he may receive the reward of a faithful steward and enjoy forever your presence in heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Join us in praying a novena for Pope Francis:



Three of Pope Francis' Favorite Devotions

We call the pope the “Holy Father,” highlighting his paternal role in guiding us toward Christ through the riches of the Catholic Faith. One way the pope accomplishes his work as a father and teacher is by imparting to us the wisdom of our Faith and enriching our spiritual lives with devotionals. Here are some special devotions that Pope Francis held:

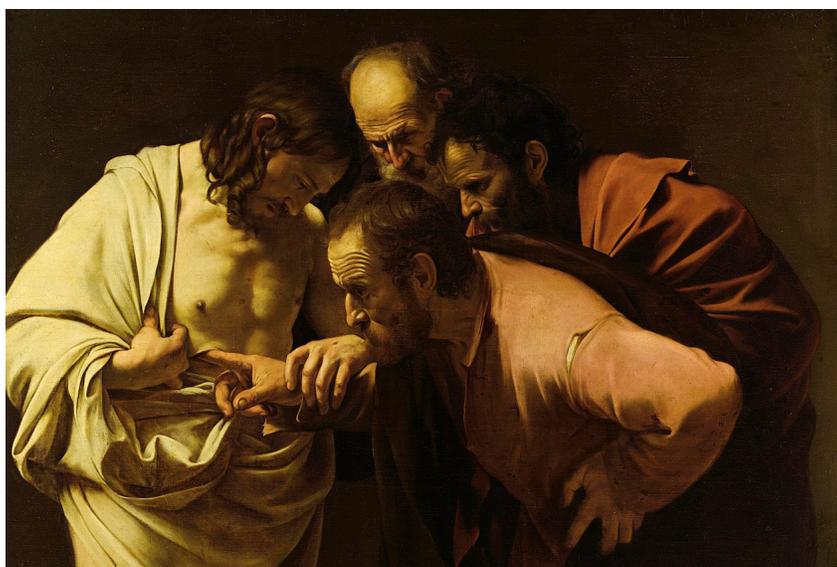


Pope Francis' Devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots

“We pray to you, Holy Mother, untie the knots that oppress us materially and spiritually, so that we may joyfully bear witness to your Son and our Lord, Jesus Christ.” —Pope Francis (Recitation of the Holy Rosary, Vatican Gardens, May 31, 2021)

Pope Francis' Devotion to Sleeping St. Joseph

“I have great love for Saint Joseph, because he is a man of silence and strength. On my table I have an image of Saint Joseph sleeping. Even when he is asleep, he is taking care of the Church! ... when I have a problem ... I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so he can dream about it! ... I tell him: pray for this problem!”
—Pope Francis (Speaking to families in Manila, Philippines, January 16, 2015)



Pope Francis' Devotion to the Five Holy Wounds of Christ

“Lest we go astray on our journey, let us stand before the cross of Jesus: the silent throne of God. Let us daily contemplate his wounds, the wounds that he brought to heaven and shows daily to the Father in his prayer of intercession. Let us daily contemplate those wounds. ... Because there, where we are most vulnerable, where we feel the most shame, he came to meet us.” —Pope Francis (Ash Wednesday Homily, February 17, 2021)