

# THE POPE OF MERCY



**SINCE HIS ELECTION**, Pope Francis has inspired millions, implemented unprecedented transparency into the workings of the Vatican, and challenged the world with his message of mercy, solidarity, and service. Here's a look at Jorge Mario Bergoglio, SJ, better known to the world as Pope Francis.

- Pope Francis has established a "Council of Cardinals" to provide him with guidance before settling on a well-discerned path forward—a singularly Jesuit feature.
- Jesuits are focused on service. As superior of a house of seminarians, he took on the laundry duty.

## JESUIT



## PRAYERFUL



- The Five-Finger Prayer, commonly attributed to Pope Francis, is a celebration of simplicity, family, and service.
- His favorite part of the day is Eucharistic adoration, in the evening.

## CONTEMPORARY



- Pope Francis is known as @Pontifex to his Twitter followers.
- Pope Francis has more Twitter followers in Spanish (@Pontifex\_es) than in English.
- Pope Francis tweets in nine different languages, including Latin.
- He is the most influential world leader in terms of retweets per tweet—on average his posts are retweeted 7,500 times in English and over 10,000 times in Spanish.
- Pope Francis does not have an official Facebook profile...yet.

## CONSCIOUS



- In his encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for Our Common Home*, Pope Francis asserts that we are called by the Bible to care for the environment, to "till and keep" the earth (Genesis 2:15).
- Most importantly, Pope Francis connects environmentalism with social justice by emphasizing how disproportionately the poor are affected by climate change.

## COMPASSIONATE



- Pope Francis built showers for the homeless in St. Peter's Square.
- Pope Francis has broken with tradition by washing the feet of the elderly, disabled, and imprisoned.
- Aware that true power is service, Pope Francis welcomes those whom society shuns, even embracing a man covered in tumors.

## FIRSTS + FAVORITES



### Pope Francis is the first...

- Jesuit Pope
- Pope from South America
- Pope to choose the name Francis
- Non-European pope since 741 A.D.

### Pope Francis's favorite...

- Sports team is the San Lorenzo Football Club
- Food is *bagna cauda* (a type of fondue)
- Dance is the tango
- Saint is Thérèse de Lisieux

## CATHOLIC FAST FACTS

**There are 1.2 billion Catholics worldwide. In the United States there are:**

- 78.2 million Catholics
- 2 million children in Catholic schools
- 50,000 religious sisters
- 38,000 priests
- 17,000 Catholic parishes
- 195 arch/dioceses

### Within the Catholic Church in the United States:

- Catholicism comprises 20% of the U.S. population.
- Hispanic Catholics now make up 41% of the U.S. church.
- 39% of American immigrants are Catholic.
- The average Catholic is getting older, with the median age of 49 (up from 45 in 2007).
- 16% of Millennials (born between 1981 and 1996) identify as Catholic.