

Catholic Church chooses Argentinian Pope

15th March, 2013



The Catholic Church announced its new Pope on Wednesday. It took those responsible for electing a new pontiff just two days to choose a successor to Pope Benedict, who

stepped down last month. The new Pope, the 266th pontiff in the Church's 2,000-year history, is Jorge Mario Bergoglio, 76, from Argentina. He has chosen a name that many say reflects his own humble upbringing – Francis. He becomes the first ever Latin American Pope and the first non-European to head the Church in over 1,300 years. Thousands of pilgrims flocked into the Vatican's St Peter's Square and cheered and applauded as they saw the white smoke that signified a new Pope had been chosen.

Followers in Buenos Aires wept for joy in the streets as they heard the news of the historic appointment. Argentina's President Cristina Kirchner said she was very proud that the first Latin American Pope was from Argentina. She wished Pope Francis great success in his new position as leader of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics. She said in a statement: "We wish him, as he takes the reins of the Church, a fruitful pastoral mission, with such tremendous responsibility on his shoulders, seeking justice, equality, brotherhood and peace among mankind." Francis is seen by many as a wise choice to lead the Church through a time of crisis because of reforms he has made in the past. Others view him as too conservative.

Sources: Catholic Herald / AFP / Irish Independent

Writing

The time has come for world religions to also have women as their leaders. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

Catholic Church / announced / successor / humble / upbringing / pilgrims / applauded / wept for joy / historic appointment / proud / fruitful / justice / equality / conservative

True / False

- a) It took two days for the Catholic Church to choose a new Pope. T / F
- b) Francis becomes Pope #266. T / F
- c) The last non-European Pope was in the year 1300. T / F
- d) Crowds were stunned into silence when they saw the white smoke. T / F
- e) Catholics in Buenos Aires laughed and cheered at the news. T / F
- f) Argentina's president said she hoped Francis would be a great success. T / F
- g) People think he will be good because he is a reformer. T / F
- h) Some people think Francis isn't conservative enough. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. announced | a. huge |
| 2. stepped down | b. childhood |
| 3. humble | c. assumes control |
| 4. upbringing | d. resigned |
| 5. flocked | e. old-fashioned |
| 6. appointment | f. declared |
| 7. takes the reins | g. selection |
| 8. tremendous | h. poured |
| 9. wise | i. simple |
| 10. conservative | j. knowledgeable |

Discussion – Student A

- a) Will Francis be different because he is Latin American?
- b) Have you ever wept for joy?
- c) What is the "tremendous responsibility" Francis has?
- d) What can Francis do for "brotherhood and peace among mankind"?
- e) What advice would you give to Francis?
- f) What does it mean to be a religious conservative?
- g) What questions would you like to ask Pope Francis?
- h) What do you think his answers might be?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. two days to choose | a. the Church |
| 2. stepped | b. for joy |
| 3. humble | c. on his shoulders |
| 4. the first non-European to head | d. upbringing |
| 5. cheered | e. of the Church |
| 6. wept | f. a successor |
| 7. he takes the reins | g. as too conservative |
| 8. such tremendous responsibility | h. and applauded |
| 9. brotherhood and peace | i. down last month |
| 10. Others view him | j. among mankind |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of religious leaders?
- Do religious leaders always do good?
- What should Francis focus on as Pope?
- Why do people think their religion is best?
- Why is religion important in people's lives?
- Who is the greatest ever religious leader?
- What kind of person makes a great religious leader?
- If they all met, what would the leaders of the great religions discuss?

Spelling

- nnodauenc its new Pope
- choose a oecusscr
- his own humble iupingbrn
- Thousands of ipisglmr
- cheered and daapelpud
- eifgdnsi a new Pope had been chosen
- news of the historic penottpanmi
- as he takes the iensr
- a fruitful tslpoara mission
- oetdumensr responsibility
- seeking ijcsuet
- too oteairsrnev

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. i	4. b	5. h
6. g	7. c	8. a	9. j	10. e

Role Play

Pope Francis - You know you will be a great Pope. Tell the others three reasons why. You think more people in the world should join the Catholic Church. Tell the others three reasons why. You don't believe there should ever be a female Pope. Tell the others three reasons why.

Female Catholic - You have your doubts about whether Francis will be good for the Catholic Church. Tell the others three reasons why. Ask Francis why women cannot become leaders in the Catholic Church. Tell him for true equality, there should be a female Pope one day.

Catholic - You are worried about the future of the Catholic Church. Tell the others three reasons why. Ask Francis what he will do to end corruption and sort out the sex scandal mess. Ask him how he will bring peace to the world.

Non-believer - You follow no religion and wonder why so many people follow the Catholic Church. Tell the others three reasons why they so believe in Catholicism. Ask them what the Church does to promote equality if women cannot become leaders. Ask them why you should become a Catholic.

Speaking – Francis' Mission

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • tour the world | • better relations with all religions |
| • help the poor | • promote women church leaders |
| • end corruption | • increase his following |
| • other _____ | • deal with the sex scandals |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.