

'MY PEOPLE ARE POOR AND I AM ONE OF THEM'



As the 266th Pope of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis was known for his great humility and approachability. When he was elected

as Pope at the age of 76 on March 13, 2013, Pope Francis was the first Jesuit Pope and the first from the Americas.

He always advised his priests to show mercy and apostolic courage and to keep their doors open to everyone. The worst thing that could happen to the Church, he said, "is spiritual worldliness", which means "being self-centred". And when he spoke of social justice, he called people first of all to pick up the Catechism, to rediscover the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. If you follow Christ, he said, you understand that "trampling upon a person's dignity is a serious sin".

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Argentina on 17 December 1936, to Italian immigrants Mario José Bergoglio and Regina María Sívori. He first entered the Diocesan Seminary of Villa Devoto, and later entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus in March 1958.

On 13 December 1969 he was ordained a priest and became novice master at Villa Barilari, San Miguel. In July 1973 he was appointed Provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina, an office he held for six years.

Cardinal Antonio Quarracino, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, wanted Father Bergoglio as a close collaborator, so, in May 1992,

Pope John Paul II appointed him Auxiliary of Buenos Aires. Upon the death of Cardinal Quarracino, in February 1998, Bishop Bergoglio was appointed Archbishop, Primate of Argentina and Ordinary for Eastern-rite faithful in Argentina. Three years later at the Consistory of 21 February 2001, John Paul II created him a Cardinal.

In October 2001 Cardinal Bergoglio was appointed General Relator to the 10th Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the Episcopal Ministry. At the Synod, he placed particular emphasis on "the prophetic mission of the bishop", his being a "prophet of justice", his duty to "preach ceaselessly" the social doctrine of the Church and also "to express an authentic judgment in matters of faith and morals".

As a Cardinal, he never relaxed his strict and simple lifestyle. He continued to live in a modest apartment, cook his own meals and take public transportation. In this spirit of poverty, he declined to be appointed as President of the Argentine Bishops' Conference in 2002, but three years later, he was elected anyway. In April 2005, Cardinal Bergoglio took part in the Conclave in which Pope Benedict XVI was elected.

He was elected Pope on 13 March 2013 after Pope Benedict XVI resigned. Cardinal Bergoglio took the name "Francis", in solidarity with the poor.

Pope Francis had three favorite devotions. The first is Mary, Undoer of Knots. In the Vatican Gardens he prayed: *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.*

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MARONITE DIVINE LITURGY

SUNDAY, 9:15 A.M.
St. Agnes Chapel
7775 Vanderbilt Beach Road
Naples, Florida

WEDNESDAY, 12:00 NOON
Saint Peter the Apostle Catholic Church
5130 Rattlesnake Hammock Road
Naples, Florida

MAY 4, 2025 THIRD SUNDAY OF RESURRECTION SEASON

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THE LITURGY THIS WEEK IS OFFERED
FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF
MAURICE GEHA, A 6TH ANNIVERSARY
REQUESTED BY BASSEMA ZOGHBI

LAST SUNDAY'S NUMBERS
Attendance: 38

Collection: \$580.00

*When you are out of town, you can still
donate to the collection by using this link.*
<https://naplesmaronite.org/donate>

We are grateful for all your generous financial support. The bank has requested that all checks must be made out to
HEART OF JESUS NAPLES MARONITE MISSION

EPISTLE

2 TIM 2:8-13

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David: such is my gospel, for which I am suffering, even to the point of chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Therefore, I bear with everything for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they too may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, together with eternal glory. This saying is trustworthy: If we have died with him we shall also live with him; if we persevere we shall also reign with him. But if we deny him he will deny us. If we are unfaithful he remains faithful, for he cannot deny himself.

GOSPEL

LUKE 24:13-35

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all the things that had occurred.



And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you walk along?" They stopped, looking downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, said to him in reply, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know of the things that have taken place there in these days?" And he replied to them, "What sort of things?" They said to him, "The things that happened to Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, how our chief priests and rulers both handed him over to a sentence of death and crucified him. But we were hoping that he would be the one to redeem Israel; and besides all this, it is now the third day since this took place. Some women from our group, however, have astounded us: they were at the tomb early in the morning and did not find his body; they came



DISCIPLES OF EMMAUS

The Maronite Icons: Modern Sacred Art.
Dar Sader Publishers: Beirut 1999.
Via Maronite Heritage.com/icons

back and reported that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who announced that he was alive. Then some of those with us went to the tomb and found things just as the women had described, but him they did not see." And he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are! How slow of heart to believe all that the prophets spoke! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them what referred to him in all the scriptures. As they approached the village to which they were going, he gave the impression that he was going on farther. But they urged him, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening and the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them. And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning (within us) while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?" So they set out at once and returned to Jerusalem where they found gathered together the eleven and those with them who were saying, "The Lord has truly been raised and has appeared to Simon!" Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

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The second is Sleeping St. Joseph. In the Philippines, he told the crowd of people who came to see him: *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! Yes! We know that he can do that. So when I have a problem, a difficulty, I write a little note and I put it underneath Saint Joseph, so that he can dream about it! In other words I tell him: pray for this problem!*

The third is to the Five Wounds of Christ. At an audience in 2016, Pope Francis said: *The supplication of the leper demonstrates that when we present ourselves to Jesus it is not necessary to make long speeches. A few words are enough, provided that they are accompanied by complete trust in his omnipotence and in his goodness. Entrusting ourselves to God's will in fact means remitting ourselves to his infinite mercy. I will even share with you a personal confidence. In the evening, before going to bed, I say this short prayer: "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean!". And I pray five "Our Fathers", one for each of Jesus' wounds, because Jesus has cleansed us with his wounds. If I do this, you can do it too, in your home, and say: "Lord, if you will, you can make me clean!"; and think about Jesus' wounds and say an "Our Father" for each of them. Jesus always hears us.*