Welcome Pope Francis

Today's Catholic

April 28, 2013
Dear Friends in Christ,

In this supplement in Today’s Catholic, our diocese honors our new Holy Father, Pope Francis. We thank God for the gift of another holy Pope, a shepherd who exemplifies the virtues of faith, humility, and charity. His election brought joy to the Church in Latin America and throughout the world.

I have been following the news about Pope Francis since his election and reading his homilies and audience talks. His evangelical simplicity is evident. He is calling the Church to reject “spiritual worldliness,” not to be self-centered. As Archbishop of Buenos Aires, he lived what he preached and showed a special love for the poor and the outcast. In a diocese with over 3 million people, he encouraged his priests to show mercy and apostolic courage. He led evangelization efforts addressed to every inhabitant of the city.

The Archbishop of Buenos Aires is now the Bishop of Rome, the Pastor of the universal Church. We have already seen in these first six weeks of his pontificate that he intends to lead the universal Church as he led the Church in Buenos Aires, with simplicity, conviction, and pastoral charity.

In his General Audiences, Pope Francis is continuing Pope Benedict’s catechesis on the Creed during this Year of Faith. Two weeks ago, he spoke about the meaning of Christ’s resurrection for us and for our salvation. He said something that is very fundamental for us and for the life of the Church in the world today: “Christianity is not simply a matter of following commandments; it is about living a new life, being in Christ, thinking and acting like Christ, and being transformed by the love of Christ.”

Our new Holy Father is encouraging us to nourish our new life in Christ by living attentively to God’s Word, by prayer, and by sharing in the sacraments, especially Penance and the Eucharist. He said: “God must be the center of our lives! By our daily witness to the freedom, joy and hope born of Christ’s victory over sin and death, we also offer a precious service to our world, helping our brothers and sisters to lift their gaze heavenward, to the God of our salvation.”

Let us listen to the teaching of Pope Francis and his call to witness daily to the love of Christ. Like Blessed John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, he is committed to the task of the new evangelization. He is calling us to have greater courage in witnessing to our faith in the Risen Christ.

Let us pray for Pope Francis and for the Church. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of the Church, watch over us and help us to walk in faith and charity!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Roche
T he election of Pope Francis at such a young age — Benedict XVI on March 13 was thoroughly unanticipated, but as the new pontiff has settled into the Petrine ministry, the wisdom of the College of Cardinals in their choice has become clear. The pontiff is striking in his intense pastoral style and his abundant love for the poor, the vulnerable and the defenseless. These early aspects of his papacy reflect, however, his abiding concern when he was a priest, a bishop and Archbishop of Buenos Aires and Cardinal.

The future Pope Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born Dec. 17, 1936, in the working class Flores neighborhood of Buenos Aires, Argentina, one of five children in a family of Italian immigrants. Raised in a happy and devoutly Catholic family, young Bergoglio initially wanted to pursue a career in chemistry and is said to have expressed hopes of being married. As a young man he was fond of the tango, Argentina’s beloved folkloric dance, and he has never lost his love for the San Lorenzo de Almagro soccer club. He has traveled in Latin America and parts of Europe, including Ireland “to improve my English.”

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Here are a few of Pope Francis’ favorite things, which he reveals in a series of interviews granted while he was archbishop of Buenos Aires.

The interviews are in the book, “Pope Francis: Conversations with Jorge Bergoglio” by Sergio Rubin and Francesca Ambrogetti, which was originally published in 2010 under the title “El Jesuita” (“The Jesuit”). It is not yet available in English.

• **Favorite sports:** When he was young, the future pope played basketball, but he loved going to the stadium to watch soccer with his whole family to see their favorite team, San Lorenzo. He lamented that the fan scene is not what it used to be. At the worst, “people would yell at the referee that he was a bum, a stinker, a selloff…nothing in comparison to the epithets they use today,” he said.

• **Favorite city:** “I love where I live. I love Buenos Aires.” He has traveled in Latin America and parts of Europe, including Ireland “to improve my English.”

• **Favorite mode of transport:** As a boy, he liked to collect stamps. Today, “I really like reading and listening to music.”

• **Favorite authors and books:** “I like history by (Friedrich) Holderlin,” a 19th-century lyric poet; Alessandro Manzoni’s “The Betrothed” (“I Promessi Sposi”), which he read at least four times; Dante Alighieri’s “The Divine Comedy”; and anything by Fyodor Dostoevsky and Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges.

• **Favorite music:** “Leonore” Overture No. 3 by Ludwig van Beethoven conducted by the late-Wilhelm Furtwangler, “who, in my opinion, is the best conductor of some of (Beethoven’s) symphonies and works by Wagner.”

• **Favorite dance style:** tango, which he said he loves “very much. It’s something that comes from within.” He said he danced the tango when he was young “even though I preferred the milonga,” which is an older form of tango with a faster rhythm.

• **Favorite movie:** “Babette’s Feast” because it shows the transformation of a group of people who took denial too far and didn’t know what happiness was, he said. The sumptuous meal helps free them from their fear of love, he said. He also likes Italian neo-realism films, which often confronted the social, economic and moral consequences of World War II, but added that as archbishop he didn’t have much time to go to the movies.

• **Favorite painting:** “The White Crucifixion” by Marc Chagall. The scene “isn’t cruel, rather it’s full of hope. It shows pain full of serenity. I think it’s one of the most beautiful things Chagall ever painted.”

• **Favorite person:** His grandmother Rosa, who helped raise him when he was little, taught him his first words of Italian and passed on her deep religious sensibility.

• **Favorite saint he turns to in time of need:** St. Thérèse of Lisieux. He kept a photo of her on his library shelf with a vase of white roses in front of it. “When I have a problem I ask the saint, not to solve it, but to take it in her hands and help me accept it.”

• **Favorite virtue:** “The virtue of love, to make room for others with a gentle approach. Meekness entices me enormously!” Always ask God to grant me a meek heart,” he said.

• **Worst vice to avoid:** “The sin that repulses me most is pride” and thinking of oneself as a big shot. He said he has happened to him, “I have felt great embarrassment and I ask God for forgiveness because nobody has the right to make others believe like this.”

• **Typical reaction to unexpected announcements:** He freezes. When Pope Francis was elected pope and appeared at the central balcony, many noticed he looked rather stiff. Turns out that’s how he reacted when he was named auxiliary bishop in 1992 and how he reacts to “anything unexpected, good or bad, it’s like I’m paralyzed,” he said.

• **Things he would rescue in event of a fire:** His breviary and appointment book, which also contains all of his contacts, addresses and telephone numbers. “It would be a real disaster to lose them.”

• **Favorite scripture passage:** “I’m very attached to my breviary; it’s the first thing I open in the morning and the last thing I close when I go to sleep.”

He also keeps tucked safe between its pages his grandmother’s letters and her last words to her grandkids before she died. She had said, “In times of stress, trouble or loses to look to the tabernacle, “where the greatest and noblest martyr is kept,” and to Mary at the foot of the cross so that they may “let fall a drop of salve on the deepest and most painful wounds.”

BY MATT BUNSON

The election of Pope Francis at such a young age — Benedict XVI on March 13 was thoroughly unanticipated, but as the new pontiff has settled into the Petrine ministry, the wisdom of the College of Cardinals in their choice has become clear. The pontiff is striking in his intense pastoral style and his abundant love for the poor, the vulnerable and the defenseless. These early aspects of his papacy reflect, however, his abiding concern when he was a priest, a bishop and Archbishop of Buenos Aires and Cardinal.

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However, he said, “I always try to avoid traveling…always I’m a homebody” and got homesick easily.

• **Favorite way to stay informed:** Newspapers. He said he turned on the radio only to listen to classical music. He had thought he’d probably start using the Internet like his predecessor, the late-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, but not until 1973, when he was 37 years old. Going to Confession, he encountered an overwhelming sense of God’s loving mercy. It was a moment he never forgot, so much so that he committed his episcopal coat-of-arms when he first became a bishop in 1992 with the motto, “misericordia atque eligendo” (”with love and by choosing.”)

• **Favorite mode of transport:** Subway, which he would always take to get around “because it’s fast; but if I can, I prefer the bus because that way I can look outside.”

• **Favorite pastime:** As a boy, he liked to collect stamps. Today, “I really like reading and listening to music.”

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VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope Francis is “a Jesuit’s Jesuit” who understands the importance of St. Francis of Assisi in the life of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, said the Jesuits’ secretary for the promotion of the faith.

U.S. Jesuit Father Gerald Blaszczak told Catholic News Service March 15 that while most Jesuits were shocked that a Jesuit was elected pope, “any Jesuit worth his salt” would not be surprised that the pope took the name of St. Francis of Assisi.

Pope Francis, the former Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, entered the Jesuit novitiate in 1958 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1969. He had been novice master and, from 1973 to 1979, was the Jesuit provincial for Argentina.

Father Blaszczak said Pope Francis’ training and priesthood as a Jesuit “tell you that he’s been steeped in Ignatian spirituality,” has had “a top-notch secular education” and that “his formation has always put him in touch with real people in real-life situations,” which he then has reflected upon in an effort to identify the ways God was present.

“That he chose the name Francis signals to us where he’s from, what he’s about and that he believes the reform of the Church is going to require: It’s not going to require moral muscle, it’s not going to require just philosophical analysis; it’s going to require an engagement with the person of Christ,” particularly through the Scriptures, he said. “But it’s going to be the Christ poor and humble.”

While some people thought maybe Pope Francis took his name thinking also of the great Jesuit St. Francis Xavier, Father Blaszczak said Jesuits know just how important the life, example and spirituality of St. Francis of Assisi was in the conversion of their founder, St. Ignatius, and in the development of what has come to be known as Ignatian spirituality.

St. Ignatius, who lived 1491-1556, was from a Spanish noble family. After being wounded in battle, he began reviewing his life and thinking about his future.

Father Blaszczak said he saw his choices as life and a career in the royal court or a life spent imitating St. Francis of Assisi.

“For Ignatius, Francis is the alternative to the life of the world, Francis, with his itinerant ministry and his intense devotion to the life of Christ and his ascetical lifestyle,” is the counterbalance to the worldly life in the court, the Jesuit said.

“Ignatius, as he admits himself, was given to womanizing, gambling and feats of arms,” but at the time of his conversion, “to his great surprise,” Ignatius finds himself “much more attracted, much more consoled, enlivened and given joy when he thinks about imitating the life of St. Francis,” the founder of the Franciscans, who died in 1226.

Father Blaszczak said Catholics already have a good hint of how Ignatian and Franciscan spirituality might impact the way Pope Francis exercises his ministry. Francis engaged the people of Rome “when he first stepped out onto the balcony as their bishop and pope March 13 “with great simplicity, with minimal pomp and circumstance.”

The Jesuit said he expected Pope Francis to continue as much as possible to do as he did while cardinal and archbishop of Buenos Aires, with “simplicity and austerity in conformity with the life of Ignatius and Francis, in conformity with his intention to follow Christ poor and humble.”

The focus of St. Ignatius, St. Francis and “historically of our new pope” when he was bishop was to be closest to the poor and those on the margins of society, he said.

The modern papacy, however, has included a certain style dictated by protocol and respect for the pope. Father Blaszczak said he did not think that would frustrate Pope Francis.

“From the conversations I’ve had with my Latin American Jesuit colleagues, this is a man who knows his own mind. This is a man who is not afraid of changing and marking his own direction,” he said.

He also said he did not think the life of the Society of Jesus would change much with a Jesuit in the papacy. Pope Francis, because “we are bound to the service of the Church through our connection and availability to the Holy Father, and that doesn’t change” no matter who is pope.

The Jesuits promise not to seek high offices in the Church, which explains in part why there has never been a Jesuit pope before. However, Father Blaszczak said, that Jesuit promise is secondary to their promise to always be available for whatever mission the Church needs them to take on.

Can’t chant, can’t speak English? Pope says it’s because he’s tone-deaf

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – After a musically proficient and polyglot Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal and future Pope Federico Lombardi, for an explanation for some time.

The spokesman recently joked that there was a saying about Jesuits: “not music, nee rubricat, nee cantat,’ meaning Jesuits are famed for not being enthusiastic about liturgical song or experts in details of liturgical rubrics.”

Father Lombardi said Pope Francis, a fellow Jesuit, may share some of those traits.

Previously, Father Lombardi dispelled rumors that the 76-year-old pope’s singing capacity or current state of health was impaired by an operation he had when he was 21 in which the upper half of his right lung was removed after cysts caused a severe lung infection.

In an interview with Father Lombardi, said he believes the pope’s lack of singing is due to “a certain household or huskiness in his voice. He reads aloud very well and effectively, he said. “but it is not the voice of Pope John Paul II, it’s not the resonant voice of an actor.”

It turns out the pope himself gave the explanation a few years ago — hidden away in one line in a book that was recently republished under a new title after his election March 13.

Currently unavailable in English, the book, “Pope Francis: Conversations with Jorge Bergoglio” by Sergio Rubin and Francesca Ambrogetti, was originally published in 2010 under the title “El Jesuita” (“The Jesuit”).

In the book, which is a series of interviews with the then-cardinal archbishop of Buenos Aires, the future pope is asked what languages he speaks.

In reply, the future pope downplayed his perfect fluency in Italian and said he used to speak French “rather well” and “got by” with German, but said the lack of practice hurt his current proficiency.

“The one language that always caused me big problems was English,” he said, especially its pronunciation, “because I am very tone-deaf.”

He continued that he understands the Italian dialect of his father and maternal grandparents who came from the Piedmont region.

Elsewhere in the book, the future pope he said he understands a little dialect from the Genoa region, but that almost all of it is “off-color.”

One of his uncles on his mother’s side was “a shameless old man who taught us obscene folk songs in Genovese dialect. That’s why none of the words of the little Genovese I know is repeatable,” he said.

His hesitancy in speaking anything other than Italian in public has emerged as another feature of Francis’ pontificate.

He did not give Easter greetings in dozens of languages March 31 like his past two predecessors had and he no longer reads out summaries of his general audience talk in anything other than Italian, not even in Spanish, which is his mother tongue.

Father Lombardi said, “It’s pretty clear that he wishes to not discriminate” and show any favoritism by choosing to speak some languages and not others, even his native Spanish.

Evidently he doesn’t think it’s necessary — either for reasons of preparation or exertion — that he personally needs to read all the summaries in the different languages during the general audience in which Vatican officials from the Secretariat of State now read the summaries in their native tongues, the spokesman said.
Pope chooses silver ring, pallium style in keeping with predecessor

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With his fisherman’s ring and the pallium — the main symbols of the Petrine office — Pope Francis chose styles in continuity with two of his predecessors. The fisherman’s ring Pope Francis chose is made of gold-plated silver and is based on the same design of a papal ring handed down from Pope Paul VI’s personal secretary. It shows an image of St. Peter holding the two keys — one key represents the power in heaven and the other indicates the spiritual authority of the papacy on earth.

The ring, which represents the pope’s role as a “fisher of men,” was designed by a late-Italian artist, Enrico Manfrini, who was very close to Pope Paul and his late-secretary, Archbishop Pasquale Macchi. Pope Francis had about three models of rings to choose from, said the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, and the pope chose the design that Manfrini gave Archbishop Macchi for Pope Paul. Pope Francis’ ring was made from the same wax cast of the ring meant for Pope Paul, who never wore it, Father Lombardi said.

During the installation Mass March 19, Pope Francis received the newly made ring from the dean of the College of Cardinals, Italian Cardinal Angelo Sodano. The pallium Pope Francis received from French Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran during the Mass was the same one Pope Benedict XVI used — a short woolen band that the retired pope re-introduced in 2008, and similar to the kind worn by Blessed John Paul II. It is worn over the shoulder and has a 12-inch long strip hanging down the front and back. The pallium is a woolen stole that signifies the pope’s or the archbishop’s authority over the Christian community. It also represents the shepherd’s mission of placing the lost, sick or weak sheep on his shoulders.

The pallium the pope wears is decorated with six red crosses symbolizing the wounds inflicted on Christ during the passion, Father Lombardi said. He said the crosses on palliums for metropolitans archbishops are black to make clear the diversity of jurisdiction.

The end piece, like all palliums, is made of black silk, a symbol of the black sheep that the shepherd rescues and carries over his shoulder back to the flock.

The pallium is fitted on Pope Francis during his inaugural Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican March 19. With his fisherman’s ring and the pallium, the main symbols of the Petrine office, the pontiff chose styles in continuity with two of his predecessors.

St. Francis of Assisi and his mark on Pope Francis

BY SISTER AGNES MARIE REGAN

MISHAWAKA — While praying in the small chapel of San Damiano in Assisi, St. Francis heard the crucifix speak to him, “Francis,” the voice said calling him by name, “go rebuild My Church.” Later, after his infamous encounter with lepers, Francis tells us, “the Lord Himself led me among them and I showed mercy to them.” How appropriate are these words as Franciscans joyfully celebrate the election of Pope Francis as the successor of St. Peter. As the choice of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio became apparent, a dear Franciscan friend, Cardinal Claudio Hummes, a Franciscan, hugged him and said, “Do not forget the poor.”

Those words struck a cord with the people of today. Teach us, Holy Gospel, to our own charisms, and teach us, most Holy Father, with your divine authority, with your saintly wisdom, that in order to rebuild the Church, as the Little Poor Man of Assisi did...

In the days since his installation, Pope Francis has repeatedly shown us in words and his actions that he has a wonderful intellect honed by his Jesuit formation, but also a compassionate heart, the Little Poor Man of Assisi.

What a marvelous combination for the good and rebuilding of the Church in such turbulent times.

Pope Francis’ credibility is shored up by his unflinching simplicity and humility, his care for the poor, handpicked and imprisoned and all those “lepers” of which our human race is composed. Where the words of Pope Francis speak, his example in St. Peter’s Square and throughout Rome calls upon all of us to build the Church by becoming “living stones.” In this way, we will, as Church, proclaim Jesus crucified to all.

Like Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis has reminded all of us that our vocation is to be “protector.” It involves everyone. He says, “It means protecting all creation, the beauty of the created world, as the Book of Genesis tells us and as St. Francis of Assisi showed us.”

The “Canticle of the Creatures” by St. Francis, would be a perfect expression of Pope Francis’s respect for each of God’s creatures, and every person, child, elderly person, anyone who is needy, our spouses, parents — in short, everyone! “In the end,” Pope Francis said, “everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it.”

Pope Francis is also a deep man of prayer, as was the Poverello of Assisi. He rises early each morning for his time of communion with God and celebrates the Eucharist as his source and fountain of spiritual strength. As cardinal, Pope Francis served in the Congregations for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments, a congregation dedicated to the proper celebration of liturgical rites and liturgical music. This was an area dear to the heart of St. Francis as he often reminded the friars of the care they were to take — meticulous care of churches, altars, churches and anything connected with divine worship.

Another facet of his life of prayer is shown by the following: the day after his election, he visited the Papal Basilica of St. Mary Major, laying a bouquet of flowers upon Mary’s altar and entrusting his papacy and the Church to her care. St. Francis of Assisi had a deep devotion to Mary as demonstrated in the several prayers he wrote in her honor. And the final hours of St. Francis’s life were spent at St. Mary of the Angels, the Portiuncula, which he clearly indicated was his favorite place on earth.

Those who know Pope Francis and who have been most closely associated with him as cardinal and archbishop in Argentina, are certain that he will be completely faithful to the charge given him “to rebuild My Church.” And his way of accomplishing that will be his own joyful example of humility, simplicity, poverty, care for all in need, and his determination to live the Gospel and preach it in its entirety. Or as St. Francis said, “without gloss.”

Pope Francis’s words spoken on the feast of St. Joseph are significant as we do our part to work along with our Holy Father. “We must not be afraid of goodness or even tenderness!” Pope Francis exhorted. “We are all called so that the hope of will shine brightly. Let us protect with love all that God has given us!”

St. Francis of Assisi is depicted with the stigmata, or wounds of Jesus, in a painting located at the franciscan convent in La Verna, Italy. In 1224, St. Francis retired to La Verna with three companions. While praying on the mountainside he had a vision, then the five wounds of Christ appeared on his body. Brother Leo, one of his companions present at the time, left an account of the incident.
A dream fulfilled amid white smoke!

BY VINCENZO LABARBERA

“All roads (can) lead to Rome” — even when they begin in the remote rural area of northeastern Wells County in Indiana where Phil and Sue Davis bought a 100-year-old home in 1987. A weekend visit to the “eternal city,” however, usually doesn’t include witnessing the election of a new pope, especially one of the shortest conclaves in history.

The Davises’ remarkable journey took place in late March, when their eldest son, Dan, was studying for the priesthood at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary, Winona, Minn. Last July, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades sent young Dan to Rome to continue his theological studies at the Pontifical North American College. Dan’s parents, with their other siblings to support, only could dream of ever visiting him.

But a telephone call last fall helped make the dream a reality. When Phil answered, friends asked several questions relative to Dan studying for the priesthood. In short, Dan had to agree to pay the tuition or the school was no more. In the immediate future for bridal, wedding or baby showers, saving the friends a lot of money since they didn’t have to buy gifts for those occasions. Dan was told he and Sue were to be at a particular home on Nov. 23 at 7 p.m. so the couple could be presented the money saved to send them Rome — enough money, in fact, to pay for more than half the expenses.

The Davises made arrangements for the trip in December. On Feb. 11, Phil was at work when Dan called from Rome to report Pope Benedict announced he was resigning. “What’d you do?” Dad quipped. “You’re only over there six months and the pope resigns!”

“We kept watching for when the conclave might start,” Davis said. He told Sue there was a slim chance they could be in Rome when it happened.

Their flight left Atlanta on Monday, March 11, and arrived at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday, Rome time, shortly after the papal conclave began. time enough to witness black smoke appearing around noon in the chilling rain following the first vote.

“But I was warmer than I’ve ever been because of the close proximity of more than 300,000 people standing in St. Peter’s Square,” Sue said.

Dan’s fellow seminarian in Minnesota, Peter Keefer, stands about 6 feet 3 inches tall, Phil reported, and could see over the relatively short, Italian crowd. He weaved the Davis family through the people until they were about 10 yards from the front for the inconclusive black-smoke results of the evening vote.

The third and fourth votes came the next day, March 13, before noon and the Davises were there. Throughout the event they were interviewed by TV reporters several times because the media was looking for people who spoke English. After multiple interview requests, Sue, who is blond, quipped, “If we ever do this again I’m going to dye my hair dark!”

When it was reported there would be another vote around 5 p.m. (noon in the U.S.), the crowd swelled throughout the afternoon to 350,000, still standing in the wind and heavy rain, Phil reported. He said he used an umbrella that week more than he’s ever used one his entire life.

“We might have had a better view with chairs from atop our hotel, just a 20-minute walk from the Vatican,” joked Sue. “At least we would have had coffee and a dry room.”

When they saw the white smoke rising on the fifth vote, they thought they would just stay in the square, Phil said.

“All the bells in the city started ringing,” Sue related. “The people were cheering and the rain was coming down. The whole thing was just so overwhelming for us!”

“An hour later, all the lights came on,” continued Phil. “But it was another hour after that the new pope emerged on the balcony. The crowd was filled with a buzz and energy like none other, and you had to struggle to hold your spot,” he continued.

“People were talking, praying and singing in small groups,” Sue added. The couple first learned the pope’s name when someone behind them shouted, “Francisco!”

“It was absolutely electrifying in Vatican City,” Dan added. “The Davises also didn’t get to attend Pope Francis’ Inaugural Mass on Mar. 19 in which Dan served because they left the previous day.

“But we got to see so many things we never would have seen had Dan not been there for six months,” he added. They toured St. Peter’s Basilica, the crypt and took the scavi tour below the crypt. On Saturday they enjoyed a two-hour train ride to Assisi and on their last day walked two-and-a-half hours in Rome to the Church of Santa Croce, which houses a number of relics from the Passion of Christ.

Upon returning home, their friends were all so happy for them, they related. One of Phil’s fellow workers said, “Let me get this straight: friends helped pay for the trip, they scheduled it in December and landed them when the pope was elected! Why haven’t you bought a lottery ticket?”

“It’s still so unbelievable and hard to comprehend,” said Sue. “Dan’s ordination to the diaconate is expected to be in Rome, she added, “and we hope to return.”

Maybe it’s time to begin another dream.

Saint Mary’s College sophomores (from left) Lauren Osmsanski, Nikki Charter and Victoria Williams pose with flags in Saint Peter’s Square awaiting the election of the new pope. There are 31 Saint Mary’s College students studying in Rome for the spring semester. The Saint Mary’s Rome Program was established in 1970 and is the college’s oldest study abroad offering.

Saint Mary’s students grow in faith while studying in Rome

BY ADRIENNE LARSON

ROME — Some Catholics describe a moment in their lives when their beliefs are reaffirmed and they emerge from the experience with a deeper appreciation for their faith. It might come from a retreat weekend or, perhaps, a health scare. From that point on, they may enjoy an amplified spiritual connection to God and to Catholicism that informs their life’s path.

For three Saint Mary’s College students studying with the school’s Rome Program, that moment coincided with the election of Pope Francis.

“I’ve experienced so many different cultures within the Italian culture. I have loved trying to get a sense of each of these ‘main cultures’ by talking with the Italian people and participating in their way of life,” explains sophomore Anna Ulliman, from Cincinnati. What the students hadn’t expected was the profound growth in their faith and spirituality during their semester overseas.

Vatican City, within the city of Rome, is walking distance from the students’ hotel. During Lent, there are Lenten Station Masses every day at a different church.

When they saw the white smoke rising on the fifth vote, they thought they would just stay in the square, Phil said.

“All the bells in the city started ringing,” Sue related. “The people were cheering and the rain was coming down. The whole thing was just so overwhelming for us!”

“An hour later, all the lights came on,” continued Phil. “But it was another hour after that the new pope emerged on the balcony. The crowd was filled with a buzz and energy like none other, and you had to struggle to hold your spot,” he continued.

“People were talking, praying and singing in small groups,” Sue added. The couple first learned the pope’s name when someone behind them shouted, “Francisco!”

“It was absolutely electrifying in Vatican City,” Dan added. “The Davises also didn’t get to attend Pope Francis’ Inaugural Mass on Mar. 19 in which Dan served because they left the previous day.

“But we got to see so many things we never would have seen had Dan not been there for six months,” he added. They toured St. Peter’s Basilica, the crypt and took the scavi tour below the crypt. On Saturday they enjoyed a two-hour train ride to Assisi and on their last day walked two-and-a-half hours in Rome to the Church of Santa Croce, which houses a number of relics from the Passion of Christ.

Upon returning home, their friends were all so happy for them, they related. One of Phil’s fellow workers said, “Let me get this straight: friends helped pay for the trip, they scheduled it in December and landed them when the pope was elected! Why haven’t you bought a lottery ticket?”

“It’s still so unbelievable and hard to comprehend,” said Sue. “Dan’s ordination to the diaconate is expected to be in Rome, she added, “and we hope to return.”

Maybe it’s time to begin another dream. 
Feeding the beast and finding Francis: my three weeks in Rome

by Don Clemmer

I was so convinced that I was going down to the square to see black smoke that I’d made dinner plans. When six o’clock struck, a few minutes early, the crowd and I were in Rome in the church of St. Mary Major, the church of the Roman Curia. I was there to feed the beast.

That’s how my boss, Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, director of media relations for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, described our work during the papal transition. Some 6,000 media were credentialed through the Vatican press office — 6,000 people paid to generate content on a story for which the flow of print information often bordered on nonexistent. If we didn’t fill this vacuum, someone would, and probably with a less-than-friendly message.

The best way to fill this void: cardinals. Eleven U.S. cardinals are under the age of 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave. The majority of them stayed at the North American College (NAC). We too were staying and working at this pontifical seminary on the Janiculum Hill, about a 10-minute walk from St. Peter’s. We forwarded hundreds of media requests to the cardinals and their communications directors.

The night of the pope’s resignation, Feb. 28, we gathered three cardinals — Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston, and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston — into the NAC’s auditorium before an audience of journalists for a reflection on the day’s events: Benedict declaring his obedience to the next pope; the cardinals each saying goodbye, the white helicopter flying away.

On the following Monday was the first of the General Congregations, the pre-conclave meetings of all the cardinals.

The morning was bright with the promise candidates. Dark horses as possible alternative or compromise candidates. Dark horses from Asia and Africa also made the rounds. As the conclave drew near, it was surreal that something so significant as the identity of the next pope could be so completely opaque. Yet, as the media analyzed it to death, I felt the process was somehow robbed of its sense of surprise.

How wrong it all proved to be. The name of the man who was announced in a Latin formula of “(FIRST NAME) Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church (LAST NAME)” was like a person who has studied the field to the extent that the cardinals’ first names are recognizable in Latin can learn who the next pope is.

The cardinals were in Rome’s Fiumicino Airport, I collected my bags and decided to fly to Rome with my girlfriend for spring break. This decision was made just after Christmas when there was no indication whatever that there would be the first papal resignation in hundreds of years.

When we arrived at the Vatican for the first time, we were in awe. Many people, including myself, were not expecting a defining vote to take place so early on. Still there was a buzz going through the crowd as groups from every nationality imaginable gathered for the chance to see who would look to be the new head of the universal Church.

An unexpected witness

by Peter Freeby

As I collected my bags at Rome’s Fiumicino Airport, I could already see signs that something special was happening in this ancient city. It was the first day of the conclave and there were numerous groups of religious throughout the airport that had just arrived for the occasion. I knew I was in for a long night.

The cardinal’s were in Rome, many people, including myself, were not expecting a defining vote to take place so early on. Still there was a buzz going through the crowd as groups from every nationality imaginable gathered for the chance to see who would look to be the new head of the universal Church.

We stood behind a group of children who were being led in song by the nuns who were accompanying them. This was also a strategic move as it was raining and almost everyone had an umbrella raised just high enough to block sightlines to the video monitors. Fortunately these children were told to stay quiet and everyone pushed towards the front of the square.

My limited education in the Latin language came in to play as Cardinal Tauran began announcing “With great joy, I announce to you, we have a pope!”

Once again the crowd went ballistic with cheering, but instead of the usual four or five and a half minutes we were waiting for, only one and a half minutes passed before the conclave leader stepped back and the white smoke came rolling out of the chimney. The white smoke was a signal that the College of Cardinals of the next pope.

Some 6,000 people paid to generate content on a story for which the flow of print information often bordered on nonexistent. If we didn’t fill this vacuum, someone would, and probably with a less-than-friendly message.

Don Clemmer is the former assistant editor of Today’s Catholic and is the assistant director of media relations for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
Pax et Bonum, Pope Francis!
(Peace and all Good!)

“I have chosen my servant; with my holy oil
I have anointed him.

“My hand will be with him; my arm will make him strong.”

—Psalm 89:21-22

Let us love and practice poverty and help and support the poor with all our strength.

Blessed Catherine Kasper
Foundress of the Poor Handmaids

My prayer for all of us is that the Holy Spirit, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother, will grant us this grace: to walk, to build, to profess Jesus Christ crucified.

Amen

—from the first homily of Pope Francis

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish
Fort Wayne
THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME
REJOICES IN THE ELECTION OF POPE FRANCIS

May God bless his ministry

miserando atque eligendo
“He saw me through the eyes of mercy and He chose me”

We are filled with great joy at the election of Pope Francis and pray that Our Lord bless him abundantly as he carries out the mission of leading and building up the Church.

We also thank him for approving the Decree of Miracle that paves the way for the beatification of our foundress, Venerable Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel. May her intercession gain him many graces.

Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration
With Gratitude and in Faith: He Leads, I Follow
President of OSV says Francis is pope of the people

BY KAY COZAD

ROME — President and Publisher of Our Sunday Visitor Greg Erlandson was as surprised as the rest of the world to witness the election of the 266th bishop of Rome, Pope Francis, in March. Having lived in Rome for three years and covering the election in 2005 of Pope Benedict XVI, he was honored to have the opportunity to attend the events of those weeks in Rome along with 6,000 journalists from around the globe.

It was not only an opportunity to “touch base with partners, colleagues and sources in the Vatican and the press corps for information on the conclave and the new pope,” but was a time of personal reflection for this parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Fort Wayne, who says, “I find it a truly inspiring and reflective time to be in Rome, and I tried to attend all of the key Masses and ceremonies.”

Arriving on March 9, only days before the final successful vote of the conclave, Erlandson secured housing with a good friend and notable Italian journalist. Because the resignation of Pope Benedict gave the Vatican “two weeks notice” compared to the conclave following Pope John Paul II’s death in 2005, Erlandson says in some ways the events surrounding the conclave were more formal and efficient. He also reports on the great sense of excitement that pervaded the area.

“Perhaps because of the governmental crisis and the sense of dread that hung over Italian politics, there was a great focus on the papacy, a great sense of anticipation and excitement. The local Italian media did a phenomenal job of reporting every day at great length on events at the Vatican,” he says.

Following the general congregations in which the cardinals discussed the issues facing the Church, Erlandson scrambled to attend as many Masses celebrated by the cardinals as possible. During the three he witnessed, Erlandson continued reporting via his iPhone, tweeting and videographing for the public back home.

He notes with confidence, “This is the new face of journalism.” As the conclave began every rooftop on St. Peter’s Square sported TV station cameras all pointing to the famous chimney atop the Sistine Chapel in hopes of capturing the much-anticipated white smoke that would signal the successful election of the new pope. The square was flooded with people gathering to pray as the voices took place even in the steady rainfall, Erlandson noted. And though predictions had been made as to who would take the cathedral, Erlandson says, “…no one really foresaw that it would be a cardinal from Argentina who was 76 years old who would be the one elected in only five ballots.”

The raucous jubilation on the square was overwhelming as the announcement of the new pope followed in the footsteps of Bergoglio’s election: “I was very excited, obviously, and I was delighted that all of our prognostications proved wrong. Sometimes it is nice to be surprised, and I think we need to pay attention to what the Holy Spirit may be trying to tell us with this surprise,” he says.

The pope’s humility was evident in the first moments of his papacy. Erlandson relates, “He asked for us to pray for him first. That was a remarkable act of humility. Then he told everyone to go home and get a good night sleep.” The exhausted and famished Erlandson and his Italian friends did head home around midnight to find that his friend’s wife had prepared a celebratory dinner that they devoured voraciously.

The Saturday following his election Pope Francis met with the journalists. Erlandson waited two-and-a-half hours to enter the arena where he says the pope “won the journalists over right away.”

Erlandson is already impressed with this pope’s simplicity and intelligence. He says, “I think Pope Francis is a man who leads by example, and his intelligence and strength of will is matched by his humility and simplicity. I know him since his own days as a novice, said the election of the new pope is an important event for the people, of the poor, of peace, a man who embraced the leper and helped to rebuild the Church — was no accident. . .”

And he adds, “Also, he is the first pope since 1960 not to have attended Vatican II, so this will be a generational shift. . . And of course, his Latin American experience means the Church will really be much more global than it is already in terms of the outlook of the Vatican.”

Erlandson believes that Pope Francis will challenge expectations of what leadership is as well. “I think he will remind us that our true leader is Christ, and that Christ is the measure by which we measure ourselves,” he says.

Erlandson reflects on all the possibilities, noting the pope is a people’s pope. “This is a pope who touches people,” he says, adding that Pope Francis greeted each of the participants in the front of the Vatican parish church following his Sunday Mass.

Of the pope’s future Erlandson says, “I think he will be a reformer pope, but his primary goal is not to simply make the Vatican run more smoothly or efficiently. He wants the Church to go out into the world. He is a priest of the people. He knows what suffering people are enduring. And that pastoral experience will shape both his vision and his mission.”

Jesuits surprised that first of their brethren is elected pope

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Jesuit brethren of the new Pope Francis were as surprised as anyone when Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, was announced as the first Jesuit to be elected pope March 13 as the first Jesuit to be elected pope.

One Jesuit who shares the pope’s Argentine roots and has known him since his own days as a novice, said the election of the man he first knew as Father Bergoglio is “a joy for the country.”

Father Jose Funes, head of the Vatican Observatory, told Catholic News Service that the election of an Argentine Jesuit with a background in science (he studied chemistry at a trade school before entering the Jesuits) can only be good for all those interests. However, he said, “I think the pope will be focused on other priorities first.”

Another Jesuit Father Gerard Stockhausen, executive secretary of the Jesuit Conference USA, told CNS that when Cardinal Bergoglio’s name was announced from the Vatican balcony, he didn’t realize immediately that it was a fellow member of the Society of Jesus, the religious order founded by St. Ignatius Loyola in 1540.

Jesuits generally don’t seek higher offices in the Church, Father Stockhausen said. “There are relatively few who are bishops even. We don’t ordinarily take on those posts.”

Even the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, told reporters: “Personally, I’m a bit shocked to have a Jesuit pope. Jesuits think of themselves as servants, not authorities in Church.”

“Jesuits being named bishop or cardinal. To be named pope — wow,” Father Lombardi said. “Must have been result of strong call.”

Father Funes, speaking from the observatory’s offices in Tucson, Ariz., said the Latin Americans he knows from Mexico and Chile reacted very positively to the election of someone from Argentina.

“Now it is seeing a new excitement for the Church in Latin America,” he said, “especially if he goes to Brazil for World Youth Day in July.”

Father Funes first knew the future pope during a month when his class of novices was assigned to help out at the formation house where then-Father Bergoglio was rector. He also served as one of the three examiners for Father Funes as a candidate to join the Jesuits.

He said Pope Francis has been known to go to St. Ignatius, and founded St. Joseph Parish near the formation house where the students regularly assisted.

“Father Superior general, Father Adolfo Nicolas, said the election of Pope Francis “opens for the Church a path full of hope.”

He said in a statement that all the Jesuits accompany their brother with their prayers “and we thank him for his generosity in accepting the responsibility of guiding the Church at a crucial time.”

He said the choice of the name Francis “evokes for us the Holy Father’s evangelical spirit of closeness to the poor, his identification with simple people and his commitment to the renewal of the Church.”

As Jesuits, he said the distinguishing mark of the society is that of companionship “bound to the Roman pontiff by a special bond of love and service.” Thus, Father Nicolas added, the Jesuits “wish to express our renewed availability to be sent into the vineyard of the Lord.”

In Dajabon, Dominican Republic, Jesuit Father Regino Martinez called it “a moment of great joy and opportunity for the Church.”

He said Pope Francis as the first Latin American pope also offers “an opportunity to support the work being done in the Latin American Church and a show of support for Latin Americans.”

Father Stockhausen said that even those Jesuits who do become cardinals “tend not to move in ‘cardinal circles,’ where they get to know each other. That’s not our world.”

He acknowledged that Jesuits are generally thought of as highly educated, and “men of the world.”

There’s a saying that goes “Francis (of Assisi) loved the countryside, Dominic loved the countryside andIgnatius loved the cities,’ we’re ‘worldly’ in the good sense of the word,” he said.

Jesuits also have a reputation for being careful decision-makers, particularly if they follow the spiritual exercises of St. Ignatius, said Father Stockhausen. The exercises lead one to make decisions not out of personal interests or attachments, he said, but out of where the Spirit is leading through prayer.

Jesuits around the world expressed similar joy and support at the election of the new pope.

Father Francisco Jose Ruiz Perez, provincial of Spain, noted that Pope Francis spent part of his training in Alcala de Henares, Spain. Like Father Nicholas, he also cited a section of the Jesuit norms, noting, “Our Church service will only be truly Christian if anchored in fidelity to the one who makes all things new, and only if united with the successor of Peter.”

Cindy Wooden in Rome and Ezra Fieser in the Dominican Republic contributed to this story.
Diocesan Latinos inspired by pope’s simplicity, concern for poor

BY JODI MAGALLANES

Spanish-speaking faithful in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have been lifted up in excitement and anticipation by the surprise naming of a Latino shepherd.

Reaction to the Argentine’s election has been joyously vocal and commenced the very moment that staff members in the South Bend office of Hispanic Ministry succeeded in bringing a television signal into the building on March 13.

“At the beginning we were here at the JPII Center in Mishawaka, and we had a little bit of trouble trying to get a signal,” said Ministry Associate Lourdes Silva. “When we finally got it, there was this loud ‘Yea!’”

Lourdes E Silva, M.Div.

“Local Hispanic faithful align with him among Hispanic worshipers,” Silva said. Since his election it has become widely known that as a priest and a cardinal, his habit was to prepare his own meals and to often take public transportation or walk to appointments. Now, Silva said, the faithful see him modeling deep concern for the poor.

“What better way to go back to basics? He’s giving us this example by first of all mingling with the people and secondly by doing for others,” she said. Because no Latin American was on the list of papal candidates battered around in the media, Father Kevin Bauman, pastor of Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend, and members of his parish were caught off guard by the selection. But the fact that his first language is Spanish and his culture is similar to theirs lend themselves to immediate identity with him among Hispanic worshipers, said Father Bauman.

They also recognize Pope Francis’ familiarity with and compassion for their economic situation.

“They also see Pope Francis as just like the people who are here. They accept low paying jobs, the unglamorous jobs. They identify their own work with his,” he said. Since his election Pope Francis has demonstrated a willingness to be on the common man’s level. When he steps down to speak with a worshipper or stops his procession to go to them, those actions are interpreted as a perfect example of outreach to others.

“That’s very typical of our Hispanic people. When someone’s in need, they come together to meet their needs, for moral support and to encourage them,” he added.

Our Lady of Hungary’s women’s group, youth group and ushers’ group are all abuzz about the election, as are the laity and leadership at St. Dominic Parish in Bremen. That parish is about a third Mexican.

“I started the Mass that night, Thursday evening, by saying ‘We have a pope, and he’s Argentinian.’ There was spontaneous applause,” said Pastor Father Bob Lengerich.

St. Dominic parishioners are “absolutely excited” about the promise Pope Francis’ election holds, he continued. “It indicates that the Holy Mother Church recognizes that the Church in Latin America is young vibrant and strong. It’s investing in our future.”

Evelyn Mendoza, Hispanic ministry secretary at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart, said parishioners with whom she has spoken about the election are very optimistic. Some respond to the pope’s citizenship, while others believe he will address U.S. immigration issues. Many, however, also hope that Pope Francis will continue John Paul II’s popular legacy.

Papa Francis

Oración de Acción de Gracias

En el nombre del Padre y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo. Amen.

Señor, Te damos gracias por el regalo concedido a nuestra herencia Romana Católica.

Nos concedes un papa del linaje de San Pedro, la primera piedra, esta vez de un país Latino, con raíces Italianas.

Ayúdanos poder contribuir a este Papado con gran amor y humildad para renovar nuestra Iglesia Católica, y animando a muchos para que regresen o se unan a la Iglesia que fundó Jesucristo.

Ayúdanos a ser fiel a nuestro nuevo líder Eclesial de Roma, fortalecido a él, y a nosotros, física y espiritualmente para de esta manera poder formar parte de los ejércitos tuyos para bendición de toda Tu Santa Iglesia.

Ayúdanos lograr, con Tu gracia la unión, con un verdadero amor que solo viene de Ti. Junto a Madre María y con la ayuda de San Miguel Arcángel que seamos un solo pueblo, un solo rebaño, en Tu Santo Nombre junto a la Santísima Trinidad.

Así Sea.

Pedimos Tu Santa Bendición, y la recibimos en el Nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo. Amen.

Unímonos en rezar un Padre Nuestro, un Ave María, y una Gloria al Padre por las intenciones y un papado fructífero de Nuestro Papa Francisco.

Pope Francis

Prayer of Thanksgiving

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lord, we give you thanks for your gift towards our Roman Catholic inheritance.

You’ve given us a pope from the lineage of St. Peter, the rock, this time from a Latin country, with Italian roots.

Help us to contribute towards his papacy with great love and humility to renew our Catholic Church, motivating many to return or unite to the Church founded by Jesus Christ.

Help us to be loyal to our new leader of the Roman Catholic Church, fortify him, and us, physically and spiritually so we may form part of your guardians of the Church for the blessing of all Your Holy Church.

Help us obtain, with Your grace, unity, with genuine love which only comes from You.

Together with Mother Mary, and with the help of St. Michael the Archangel, may we be one people, one flock, in Your Holy Name and the Holy Trinity.

Amen.

We ask Your Holy Blessing, and receive it in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be... for the intentions and fruitful papacy of our Pope Francis.

OFFICINA PARA EL MINISTERIO HISPANO

Diócesis de Fort Wayne-South Bend

Lourdes E Silva, M.Div.

PAPA FRANCISCO

ORACIÓN DE ACCIÓN DE GRACIAS

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be... for the intentions and fruitful papacy of our Pope Francis.

OFFICE FOR HISPANIC MINISTRY

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Lourdes E. Silva, M.Div.
Joy...
We share the
blessed pleasure
of the faithful worldwide
and pray with them
that the pontificate of
Pope Francis
enrich the spiritual life
of all of God’s children
through the healing power
of the peace of Christ.

St. John the Evangelist Parish - Goshen
Rev. Anthony Steinacker, Pastor

St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish - Bristol
Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkhart
Rev. William Sullivan, Pastor

St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Elkhart
Rev. Glenn Kohrman, Pastor

As a generation of the Church Militant
ready to step into life where
the future is hidden from us,
it is our hope and prayer
that Divine Guidance through the
Papacy of Francis
keep us steadfast in the Faith
so that we may serve as examples to those who follow.

Heavenly Father
We rejoice in the election of
Our new Holy Father, Pope Francis.
What a wonderful gift
You have bestowed upon us
In this courageous leader!
We ask that you be with Pope Francis now
As he shepherds his flock.
We pray you continue to bless our
Church Fathers and all of your faithful.
Amen.

Fr. Alex Dodrai and St. Patrick Arcola parishioners

As parishioners
of a church devoted to
Our Blessed Mother,
we ask that her powerful assistance
be bestowed upon
Pope Francis
as he seeks to lead others
as a witness to Christ’s mission.
St. Mary Parish
Huntington
May the example and leadership of Pope Francis shape minds, touch hearts and lead persons everywhere, giving them the comfort and peace of mind that comes when they embrace Christ fully and completely.

St. John the Baptist Parish
FORT WAYNE

We join the faithful worldwide in thanksgiving for the gift of Pope Francis and pray that his simplicity and humility may rekindle the Church’s preferential love for the poor and marginalized.

St. Bernard Parish
Wabash

Immaculate Conception Parish
Auburn, Indiana
prays that the Holy Father, Pope Francis, be endowed with many graces during his Pontificate.

Father Derrick Sneyd and Parish Community

We pray for God’s blessing on Pope Francis as he shepherds the Church throughout the world with the guidance and inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Saint Mary’s College
NOTRE DAME • INDIANA

The College rejoices over the selection of Pope Francis as the new head of the universal Catholic Church. May he continue to be filled with the wisdom of the Holy Spirit and the compassion of St. Francis of Assisi as he begins his papacy.

We are grateful that our study abroad students in Rome were blessed to witness this historic event.

Visit saintmarys.edu/Rome to share their experiences.

As an arm of the Church committed to assisting the oppressed, the aged, the sick, and strangers on the shore, we rededicate our efforts under the love and guidance of our new shepherd.

Pope Francis
Catholic Charities
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
The Staff and Parishioners of St. Therese, Little Flower Catholic Church pray for POPE FRANCIS. May the Lord make you the visible center and foundation of our unity in faith and love!

54191 IRONWOOD ∞ SOUTH BEND 46635
574-272-7070

Invoking the patrons of our parishes, we pray that Mary, Mother of God, and Peter, the first pope, bring to Pope Francis blessings of vision, guidance and understanding as well as the good health necessary to carry out his given mission.

St. Mary Parish and St. Peter Parish
FORT WAYNE

Through the intercession of SAINT JOSEPH, father and protector of the Holy Family, we ask that the Holy Spirit provide the same graces to Pope Francis as he guides the faithful in the family of nations everywhere.

St. Joseph Parish
Bluffton

We celebrate the name of FRANCIS and we pray that his papacy be Gloriously Triumphant.

The Staff and Residents of Holy Cross Village NOTRE DAME, INDIANA

Ancilla College

Ancilla offers congratulations and continued prayers for Pope Francis!

May the abundance of love found in the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Graces of the Holy Spirit guide Pope Francis in order to serve God’s plan of salvation.

Basilica of the Sacred Heart Notre Dame
The Fort Wayne Jewish Federation and the Jewish Federation of St. Joseph Valley wish to express our warmest sentiments to the Catholic community on the election of Pope Francis.

The Pope’s choice of St. Francis of Assisi as his namesake reminds us of the great legacy of interfaith peacemaking and dialogue, as well as our collective and abiding commitment to lifting up the least among us.

Our Jewish community is filled with hope that our cherished friendship with the Catholic community will continue to broaden and deepen.

We offer our blessings and look forward to continuing our work together in the pursuit of justice and helping those most in need through our shared and sacred task that Jewish tradition calls *Tikkun Olam*, the repair of the world.

May the papacy of Francis be a star of hope enlightening the world.

St. Mary of the Assumption PARISH and SCHOOL
Avilla, Indiana
All-New Pope Francis Biography!

Pope Francis
by Dr. Matthew Bunson

Get to know Pope Francis! A culmination of extensive research from sources in multiple languages, this comprehensive book offers:

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Also available for Kindle and Nook!

Call to order and receive a FREE Pope Francis prayer card!

And now, let us start this journey...a journey of fraternity, of love, of trust among us. Let us always pray for us, one for the other, let us pray for the whole world, so that there may be a great fraternity.”

— Pope Francis, March 13, 2013

Call to order: 1-800-348-2440 x 2175

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