

Annuntio
vobis gaudium
magnum:

Habemus Papam!

Eminentissimum
ac
reverendissimum
Dominum,
Dominum
Jorge Mario
Sanctæ Romanæ
Ecclesiæ
Cardinalem
Bergoglio, qui
sibi nomen
imposuit Francis.



THE MONTHLY
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HABEMUS PAPAM!



In this image taken from Vatican TV, Pope Francis prays with the crowds on the evening of March 13.

“Habemus Papam!”

With white smoke billowing from the special Sistine Chapel chimney and the church bells of Rome ringing out the joyful news, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran had the great honor of announcing to the world that a new pope had been chosen. It was Cardinal Bergoglio, the archbishop of Buenos Aires, who took the name of Pope Francis. He was the first Jesuit ever chosen and the very first pope from the Americas.

“I announce to you a great joy,” Tauran began, making the proclamation in Latin (with English provided here). “We have a Pope! The most eminent and most reverend Lord, Lord Jorge Mario Cardinal

of the Holy Roman Church Bergoglio, Who takes for himself the name of Francis.”

The announcement was followed by a pause as a banner with the papal insignia was set up. Then the new pope, His Holiness Pope Francis, made his first public appearance as pope on the balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica.

The new Holy Father came out onto the balcony, his appearance surprising many (including this author) since he wore all white instead of the traditional red. He also waved only once, then quietly stood as the crowds cheered. He began to speak, pastorally and comfortably, and, in a gesture that has not been

seen in recent times, asked the crowd for a favor - to ask for God’s blessing upon him before he gave his blessing to the crowd. The new pope dramatically and quietly bowed as the people in the square and around the world prayed for the new Holy Father.

The dramatic conclave began with a Mass on the morning of March 12. Celebrated in St. Peter’s Basilica, the Mass for the Election of the Pope featured Angelo Cardinal Sodano as the main celebrant and homilist. In his homily, Sodano spoke of the importance of proclaiming God’s mercy and the work of evangelization. He also called for unity. His thanks

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Black smoke is seen coming from the Sistine Chapel the night of March 12, indicating that the first vote was inconclusive.

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to Roman Pontiff Emeritus Benedict for his eight years of service to the Church drew sustained applause from the congregation.

After the Mass and a couple hours of break time, the cardinals traveled from their residence to the Apostolic Palace. They made their way to the Pauline Chapel for a moment of prayer and then, at 4:45 p.m. Rome time, as they chanted the *Veni Creator Spiritus*, the cardinals slowly processed into the Sistine Chapel.

It wasn't long before the assembled college took their solemn oath and all those who had nothing to do with the conclave were asked to leave with the famous words, "Extra omnes!" The doors were closed and locked. And the conclave to elect a successor to Pope Benedict XVI began.

Due to secrecy (breaking it incurs automatic excommunication), we will never know the full story of how things actually proceeded during the voting process. What we do know we can glean from our very best source of information -- smoke signals from the most famous chimney in the world.

When the doors of the Sistine Chapel were closed and locked, the cardinals had the option of voting on this first evening of the conclave. It was considered probable they would vote but they did not have to do so. Evidently they decided on a vote. Black smoke poured from the Sistine Chapel at about 7:40

p.m. Rome Time, indicating that a vote had been taken but that no one had received a clear majority. After a time of prayer the cardinals left the Sistine Chapel and retired for the evening.

The next morning, March 13, the cardinals left their place of residence and had Mass in the Pauline Chapel at 7:45 a.m. (2:45 a.m. Eastern Time). This was followed by prayer in the Sistine Chapel with the commencement of voting at about 9:30 a.m. local time (4:30 a.m. Eastern Time).

There was disappointment when no smoke at all was seen after what should have been the first ballot of the day, and also when



In this Reuters image, the College of Cardinals assembles for the conclave on the afternoon of March 12 to elect a successor to Pope Benedict XVI.

black smoke greeted the crowds after the unsuccessful second ballot. The cardinals broke for lunch as some secular media outlets talked about potential "divisions" within the college that could drag out the conclave for a week or more.

The afternoon ballots at first did not promise much. Crowds huddled under umbrellas and braved the cold, rainy weather, watching for any sign of smoke. Most were expecting black smoke, and some reports seemed to indicate that black smoke was almost inevitable. The combination of the somber weather and the less-than-encouraging news made

for a somewhat depressing atmosphere. Suddenly, white smoke began to pour out of the Sistine Chapel chimney. The bells began to ring. And suddenly the atmosphere was charged with excitement. A new pope had been elected.

Fr. John Idio, OMV, was in St. Peter's Square and had just posted a video on YouTube talking about how he had seen black smoke. He e-mailed this author just moments before the white smoke, asking when there might be a deadline for a report he could give me. I said any time at all -- feeling he, being in Rome, would have more of an idea of the ever-changing situation than I would.

The rest of the amazing event was already recounted in the first paragraphs of this story. Oblates of the Virgin Mary and their lay families and friends huddled around TV sets and computer monitors. The Catholic Church had a new pope and it was time to celebrate and rejoice.

The new pope, in a very dramatic and memorable way, has asked us to pray for him. Let us continue to pray for the Church and for the new Holy Father, His Holiness Pope Francis!



Did you know that Roman Pontiff Emeritus Benedict XVI is a helicopter pilot? It's true! He has a license and reportedly flew a helicopter when he was pope (though this is not confirmed). Ironically, he has no driver's license because he never learned to drive a car.

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Media Quote of the Month

Today we repeat these words with all simplicity, because they come from people of simplicity. They come from hearts that love, and that have so loved Christ as to be capable of passing on and preaching nothing else but the truth about him:

*Crucifixus sub Pontio Pilato
passus et sepultus est.
He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate,
died and was buried.*

Thus sound the words of this testimony. And with the same simplicity of truth they continue to proclaim:

*et resurrexit tertia die.
The third day he rose again*

This truth, upon which as upon the "cornerstone" (cf. Eph 2:20) the whole edifice of our faith is based—today we wish once more to share this faith among us, one with another, as the fullness of the Gospel. We confessors of Christ, we Christians, we the Church. And, at the same time, we wish to share it with all those who are listening to us, with all men and women of good will.

*- Urbi et Orbi of Pope John Paul II, Easter Sunday, 1979.
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Papal Trivia -- How Much Do You Know?

Pope St. Linus was the second pope and is known for instituting the practice of women covering their heads with veils when they enter a church.

The youngest pope was probably the notorious Benedict IX who became pope in 1032 at the age of twenty. He also served three "terms" as pope and even sold the papacy on one occasion.

The very thin Cardinal Della Genga asked his fellow cardinals "will you elect a skeleton?" They did. He took the name Pope Leo XII and later officially approved the Oblates of the Virgin Mary in 1826.

Pope John XXI is history's only Portuguese pope and had previously taught medicine at the University of Sienna. He was elected in 1276 and was killed one year later when the private observatory he had built for stargazing collapsed and crushed him.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, who was elected in 2005 and resigned in 2013, plays the piano for relaxation every evening after supper.

Pope Hormisdas (514-523) was the father of Pope Silverius (536-537). Both were later canonized as saints.

Cardinal Jacques Fournier cried out, "You have elected a jackass!" when chosen on the very first conclave ballot in 1334. Despite his initial astonishment he accepted the election and took the name Benedict XII.

Pope Stephen II had the shortest papal reign in history, so short, in fact, that some lists do not even recognize him as a legitimate pope. He was elected in 752 and died four days later.

Pope Leo X was only thirty-eight when elected in 1513. He was a sportsman and enjoyed hunting for recreation.

John Paul I was pope for only one month in 1978 but made many changes. He was the first pope to use the informal "I" when referring to himself as opposed to the formal "we." He was the first pope to take a double name. He was the first pope in many centuries to forgo the papal tiara and instead be installed with a simple pallium. He was the first pope to refuse the sedia gestatoria or "portable throne" (though he did use it once when crowds complained they couldn't see him). Pope John Paul II adopted all of these changes -- including the name!

Pope John XXIII's nickname was "good Pope John." Pope John Paul I's nickname was "the smiling pope." In his later years, some European leaders called John Paul II "the aging lion" as a sign of respect.

Pope Francis, elected in 2013, is the first Jesuit ever chosen.