

Did you know?

POPE FRANCIS.....

1. Was **born** in Buenos Aires, Argentina on December 17, 1936
2. Was **baptized** on Christmas Day, 1936
3. Has **2 brothers** and **2 sisters**
4. Made his **First Communion** on October 8, 1944
5. Studied **Chemistry** at the University of Buenos Aires
6. First thought about becoming a **priest** on September 21 (the Feast of St. Matthew) after going to confession
7. Likes to **pray** the Psalms
8. Chose the name **Francis** to honor St. Francis of Assisi for his life of simplicity and service to the poor
9. Can speak **three languages**: Spanish, Italian and German
10. Loves **soccer**! His favorite team is the San Lorenzo Argentinian team

Pope Francis' COAT OF ARMS

The Coat of Arms is a way for the Pope to show things that are important to him. It shows the keys of St. Peter, which show he is the new pope in line reaching back to St. Peter. The sun with IHS shows that he belongs to the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). The Star is a symbol of our Blessed Mother Mary. The other image is a spikenard, an ancient plant that is associated with St. Joseph. These two symbols show us that Pope Francis has a deep devotion to the Holy Family.



His motto is "Seeing through the eyes of mercy, he chose him." This is a reminder that Pope Francis first felt called to be a priest on the Feast of St. Matthew. Both Pope Francis and St. Matthew were called by God and given his mercy.

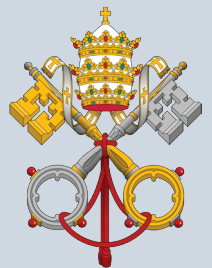
POPE FRANCIS

(Jorge Mario Bergoglio)

OUR 266TH POPE



A BIG
HEART
OPEN TO
GOD
AND OTHERS



3 IMPORTANT MESSAGES POPE FRANCIS WANTS TO SHARE WITH YOU!

1

ASK FOR FORGIVENESS AND FORGIVE OTHERS

Have you ever heard of secret agents? These are the people who have special training, and are on a mission to do some good action. Guess what? Pope Francis wants you to be a special agent for God—an Agent of Mercy!

To be an agent of mercy means to be ready to be kind and forgiving with everyone—even those people who may not be kind to us. Sometimes this is hard, but God helps us. God teaches us mercy in the way he treats us. Pope Francis says, “God never gets tired of forgiving us.”

Think about a time when you may have done something wrong, but said you were sorry. God forgives you. Pope Francis says that just like parents hug and kiss you when you do wrong showing us we are forgiven and loved, God loves us the same way. (Even though we don't feel his hug.)

Pope Francis says to remember that even though we have been forgiven we should try our best not to do the same thing again! To be a special agent of mercy, we have to try and bring God's mercy to the world by being kind and forgiving of others.

2

BE A FRIEND OF GOD

Think about your really good friends. What do you do with your friends? Sometimes you play, watch movies or do homework together. When something good or bad happens you want to tell your friend. Sometimes friends want us to listen. This is what makes a good friendship—spending time together, talking and listening.

The way we make our friendship with God grow is by praying. Pope Francis tells us that prayer is like “speaking with a friend: in prayer one opens one's heart.”

Pope Francis says “When the Apostle John, who was such a good friend of Jesus, wanted to say who God is, do you know what he said? ‘God is love.’” How can you love what you do not know, so get to know God. Let Christ into your heart and let that love blossom and grow.

3

TAKE CARE OF THE POOR

Who are the most important people in the world? Is it someone who is famous and strong?

To God we are all important. We are all His children, and he loves each one of us. But God has a special love for people in the world who don't have simple things in life. God wants us to show our love for Him by taking care of those people in the world who are hungry or sick, those who are lonely and those who don't have homes to go to.

Pope Francis wants us to turn the world upside down and put the poor and those in need at the center and love them as God loves them. Pope Francis says everyone in the Church needs to help: families can work together to help others. This is how God's love grows in the world, making it a better place.

POPE FRANCIS SAYS....

“What is the most important subject you have to learn in life?”

(Answer! To learn how to love.)



“You too, dear young people, can be joyful witnesses of His love, courageous witnesses of His Gospel.”