



Pope Francis. *Consistent.*

The world had to do some quick research when Jorge Mario Bergoglio presented himself to the Catholic Church as the newly-elected Pope Francesco. Though previously little known, this humble priest has quickly had a profound effect in his new role as Bishop of Rome.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Bergoglio worked briefly as a nightclub bouncer before entering the seminary. Ordained a Catholic priest in 1969, he worked for the poor of his city, and eventually became the Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998. He was made a cardinal in 2001.

On March 13, 2013, Bergoglio was elected by the papal enclave. He chose his papal name in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi. Francis is the first Jesuit pope, the first pope from the Americas, the first from the Southern Hemisphere and the first non-European pope since Gregory III in 741.

Throughout his life, Pope Francis has been noted for his humility, his concern for the poor, and his commitment to dialogue as a way

to build bridges between people of all backgrounds, beliefs, and faiths.

“All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation.”

“The right to life is the first among human rights. To abort a child is to kill someone who cannot defend himself.”

Pope Francis opposes all forms of violence. He has openly criticised “the culture of death” that influences society.

“We have perfected our weapons, our conscience has fallen asleep, and we have sharpened our ideas to justify ourselves. As if it were normal, we continue to sow destruction, pain, death!”

As recently as 2013, Pope Francis reiterated the Holy See’s support for “the abolition of the death penalty.”

Francis has fought for social and economic justice as well. He said, “The unjust distribution of goods persists, creating a situation of social sin that cries to Heaven and limits the possibilities of a fuller life for so many of our brothers.”

Pope Francis is *consistent*.

Will you accept his challenge to reject violence and embrace the sanctity of all life?

