

2013

**March 13:** Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Buenos Aires, Argentina, is elected pope on the second day of the conclave, becoming the first pope from the Southern Hemisphere and the first non-European elected in almost 1,300 years. The Jesuit is also the first member of his order to be elected pope and the first member of any religious order elected in nearly two centuries.



**July 8:** Pope Francis makes his first trip outside of Rome, choosing to go to the Italian island of Lampedusa to underline the plight of migrants crossing the Mediterranean and the countless lives lost at sea.



2014

**June 8:** Israeli President Shimon Peres, Pope Francis, Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, and others come together in the Vatican Gardens for an unprecedented gathering to pray for peace in the Holy Land.



2015

**Sept. 19-27:** Pope Francis travels to Cuba and then to Washington, D.C.; New York; and Philadelphia during his first and only visit to the United States. He addresses Congress, the United Nations, and the World Meeting of Families, canonizes St. Junipero Serra, and visits the 9/11 memorial in Lower Manhattan.



**Dec. 8:** Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica to inaugurate a Holy Year of Mercy. He invited churches around the world to designate a holy door as a reminder of his call for reconciliation.

2016

**Feb. 12-17:** Pope Francis, on his way to Mexico, stops in Cuba to meet Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill of Moscow at the Havana airport and sign a joint declaration in the presence of Cuban President Raul Castro. In Mexico, he celebrates Mass in Ciudad Juárez, which borders Texas. Hundreds of thousands of people attend the Mass, which includes faithful on both sides of the border.

2017

**April 13:** Pope Francis goes to a maximum security prison to celebrate the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper and washes the feet of 12 prisoners, including three women and a Muslim man, who was preparing for baptism. The celebration continues a practice he began as archbishop of Buenos Aires and performed every Holy Thursday as pope, including Catholics and non-Catholics, and men and women, especially those who are marginalized, in the



# A HUMBLE SERVANT

## Pope Francis: Milestones in a Transformative Pontificate

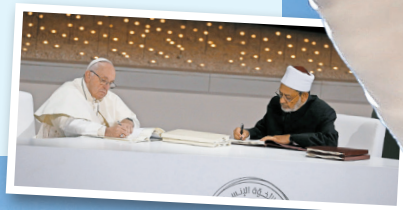
**March 27:** In the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, Pope Francis prays and delivers his extraordinary blessing "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world) during an evening prayer service from St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. St. Peter's Square is empty, and the service is livestreamed.



2020

**Feb. 21-24:** Pope Francis convenes a global summit on child protection, bringing together nearly 200 church leaders — survivors, presidents of bishops' conferences, the heads of the Eastern Catholic churches, superiors of men's and women's religious orders, and Roman Curia officials.

**Feb. 4:** Pope Francis and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, grand imam of Egypt's Al-Azhar mosque and university, sign the document on "Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together" during an interreligious meeting in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.



2019

**April 21:** Pope Francis appoints three women as consultants to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the first time women and laypeople were named as active contributors — not support staff. They join a growing number of women the pope has named to top-level positions at the Vatican.

2018

**Aug. 2:** Pope Francis orders the revision of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to describe the death penalty as morally inadmissible and to affirm that the Church "works with determination for its abolition worldwide."

2021

**March 5-8:** Pope visits Iraq amid sporadic violence continuing in the country and COVID-19. He honors those who remained faithful and worked to rebuild the country.



**July 4:** The pope undergoes a three-hour scheduled surgery at a Rome hospital to remove part of his colon. Officials say it was required to treat diverticulitis when bulging pouches in the lining of the intestine or colon become inflamed or infected. Throughout his pontificate, he suffers bouts of painful sciatica, and knee problems lead him to start using a wheelchair in 2022.

2022

**March 13:** Pope Francis celebrates his 10th anniversary as pope.



**Jan. 5:** Pope Francis presides over the funeral Mass for Pope Benedict XVI in St. Peter's Square. It is the first time in more than 200 years that a pope celebrates the funeral of his predecessor.

2023

**July 24-29:** Pope Francis makes "a penitential trip" to Canada to meet with, listen to, and apologize to members of Canada's First Nation, Métis, and Inuit communities, especially those who experienced abuse or attempts at forced assimilation at Church-run residential schools.



**Sept. 2-13:** Pope Francis visits Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Timor-Leste, and Singapore — the longest trip of his papacy in terms of distance (almost 20,000 miles) and time away from Rome.

**Dec. 24:** Pope Francis opens the Holy Door of St. Peter's Basilica, marking the beginning of the 2025 Jubilee Year of Hope.

2025



**April 21:** Pope Francis dies at the age of 88.

