A look back at Pope Francis' life and legacy

THE PICTURE SHOW

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By NPR Staff



Pope Francis waves to thousands of followers as he arrives at the Manila Cathedral on Jan. 16, 2015, in Manila, Philippines.
Lisa Maree Williams/Getty Images

Pope Francis died Monday, the day after Easter, at the age of 88. As the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, he left behind a legacy of service, unity, and compassion.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, and was the son of Italian immigrants. He was named a Cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 2001 and was elected pope on March 13, 2013.

Pope Francis was the first non-European pope in more than a millennium and the first Latin American pontiff. He preached of peace and acceptance - and reflected those values through his actions. He was the first pope to address a joint meeting of Congress in the United States and the first pope to visit the Arabian Peninsula, known as the birthplace of Islam, a historic moment for interfaith dialogue.



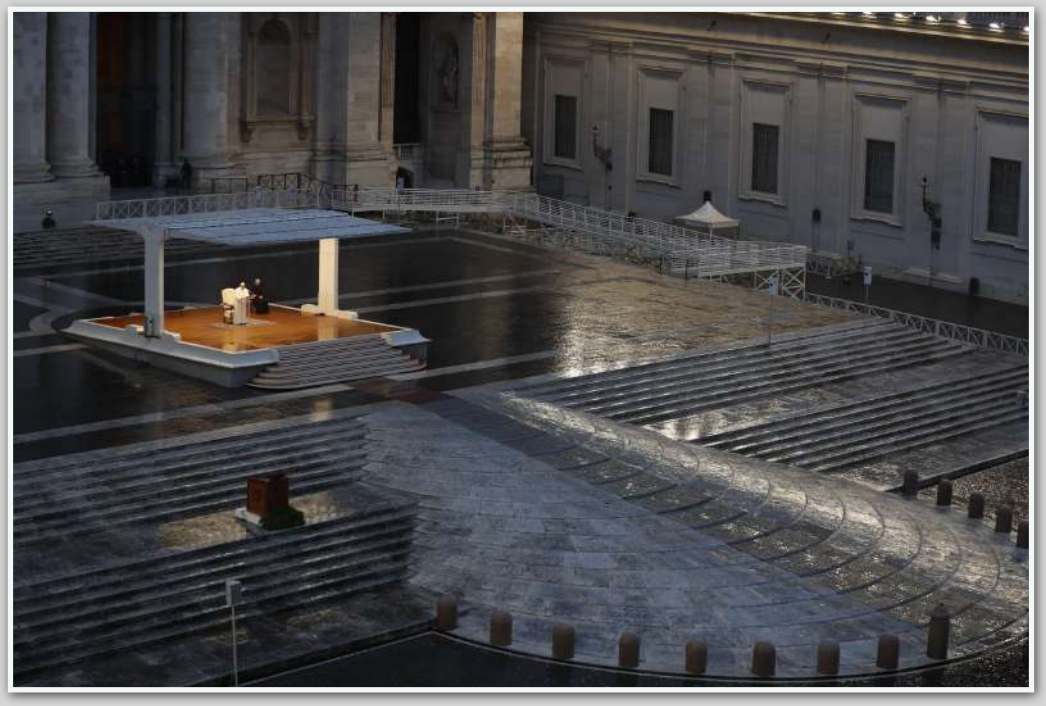
Pope Francis waves to the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square during the Pilgrimage of Italian teenagers on April 18, 2022, in Vatican City.
Antonio Masiello/Getty Images



Pope Francis visits the ward of Rome's Bambino Gesù Children's Hospital on March 19, 2022, where Ukrainian children were hospitalized.
Mondadori Portfolio/Getty Images



Pope Francis prays with priests at the end of a limited public audience at the Vatican's San Damaso Courtyard on Sept. 30, 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic. Filippo Monteforte/AFP via Getty Images



Pope Francis delivers an Urbi et Orbi prayer from the empty St. Peter's Square due to the COVID-19 pandemic at the Vatican on March 27, 2020. Yara Nardi/AP



Pope Francis wears a face mask to curb the spread of COVID-19 as he arrives in the Vatican's San Damaso Courtyard for his weekly general audience on May 12, 2021.
Alessandra Tarantino/AP



Pope Francis leaves after taking a family photo with diplomats accredited to the Holy See inside the Sistine Chapel at the end of an audience for the traditional exchange of New Year greetings at the Vatican on Jan. 8, 2018.
Andrew Medichini/AP



Pope Francis attends the Liturgy of the Light during the Easter Vigil Mass at St. Peter's Basilica on April 20, 2019.
Franco Origlia/Getty Images



Pope Francis walks out from Assumption Cathedral as Thai youth reach out to touch him in Bangkok, Thailand, on Nov. 22, 2019.
Paula Bronstein/Getty Images



Pope Francis is welcomed by Dubai's Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum (left) and Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan (right) upon his arrival to the presidential palace on Feb. 4, 2019. The moment marked the first ever papal visit to the Arab Peninsula.
Gehad Hamdy/DPA / Picture Alliance via Reuters



Pope Francis at the San Paolo della Croce parish in Corviale, a suburb of Rome, for a pastoral visit on April 15, 2018.
Silvia Lore/NurPhoto via Getty Images



Pope Francis meets migrants at the Moria detention center on April 16, 2016, in Mytilene, Greece.
Andrea Bonetti/Greek Prime Minister's Office via Getty Images



Pope Francis plays with a ball as he meets players in the Clericus Cup on May 29, 2019, in Vatican City.
Franco Origlia/Getty Images



Pope Francis addresses a joint session of Congress in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 24, 2014. The Pope was the first leader of the Roman Catholic Church to address a joint session of Congress.
Vincenzo Pinto/AFP via Getty Images



Hundreds of thousands of people crowd Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana Beach on July 28, 2013, as Pope Francis celebrates the final Mass of his visit to Brazil.
Christophe Simon/AFP via Getty Images



A woman reads an extra edition of a newspaper with the announcement of the the election of Argentina's cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the new Pope Francis I on March 13, 2013, in Medellin, Colombia.
Raul Arboleda/AFP via Getty Images



Newly elected Pope Francis I waves to the waiting crowd from the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica on March 13, 2013.
Jeff J Mitchell/Getty Images



A man looks out from a window near to the statue of St. Paul as black smoke billows from the chimney on the roof of the Sistine Chapel indicating that the College of Cardinals has failed to elect a new pope on March 13, 2013.
Dan Kitwood/Getty Images



Pope John Paul II names Jorge Mario Bergoglio a cardinal during a consistory in St. Peter's Square on Feb. 21, 2001.
Franco Origlia/Getty Images



Jorge Bergoglio with his family in an undated image. From left to right, standing, brother Alberto Horacio, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Oscar Adrian and sister Marta Regina, sitting, sister Maria Elena, mother regina and father Mario Jose Francisco.

API/Gamma-Rapho via Getty Images