Fact Sheet: The Biography of Pope Francis

➢ **Name:** Jorge Mario Bergoglio
➢ **Born:** December 17, 1936 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, one of five children of an Italian railway worker and his wife.

Pre-Papal Life:
➢ Entered the novitiate of the Society of Jesus on March 11, 1958, because, as he said, he was "attracted to its position on, to put it in military terms, the front lines of the church."
➢ Was appointed as Provincial of the Jesuits in Argentina on July 31, 1973.
➢ Got the second-most votes in the 2005 papal conclave, after Pope St. John Paul II's death in April 2005.

Election as Pope:
➢ Elected as the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church on March 13, 2013.
➢ The result of the election was surprising to many because he was 76, and many cardinals said they would not vote for someone older than 70.
➢ Became the first pope from the Americas. Also the first non-European, and first Jesuit priest to be named Pope.
➢ The first Jesuit Pope “While Francis did not aspire to the papacy, he won over the papal conclave by his speech, calling for the Church to go out from the Vatican and move to the ‘periphery,’ i.e., caring for the marginalized and the voiceless people,” says By **Father Thomas Scirghi**, S.J., an Associate Professor of Theology” at Fordham. “Also, I think this choice shows that the hierarchy recognized his Latin roots – where the Church is growing today.”
➢ Chose the name Francis after St Francis of Assisi, to reflect a desire for the Catholic Church to be an institution “of the poor, for the poor.”

Papal Work:
Decided not to move into the papal apartments in the Apostolic Palace, but to live in a suite in the Vatican guesthouse. When he was elected as Pope, he chose not to wear the red shoes made specifically for him, and wore his regular black shoes. Has also chosen a humble papal ring in silver instead of gold with a design from the past instead of having one created specifically for him. Has focused his work on improving the plight of the poor and saving the planet from environmental catastrophe. “The three most important issues the Pope wants to address is the responsibility of humankind to be in right relationship with each other with the earth and therefore also with God,” says Professor Judith Kubicki, CSSF, a nun and Associate Professor of Theology at Fordham. “This is expressed in his frequent reminders that we are responsible for the poor and suffering among us, for taking care of the gift we have in creation and for remembering and acknowledging that God is a God of mercy and compassion.”

Gave his first speech in English in South Korea in 2014.

Famous quotes:

- “My people are poor and I am one of them.”
- “Money has to serve, not to rule.”
- “Journeying is an art because if we're always in a hurry, we get tired and don't arrive at our journey's goal.”
- “Although the life of a person is a land full of thorns and weeds, there is always a space in which the good seed can grow. You have to trust God.”
- “Women in the church are more important than bishops and priests.”

Other Facts:

- Has a Twitter account. His first tweet said, “Dear friends, I thank you from my heart and I ask you to continue to pray for me. Pope Francis.”
- At the age of 21, had a lung removed because of an infection.
- Used to be a bouncer at a nightclub in Buenos Aires.
- Time Magazine’s Person of the Year in 2013.
- Nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize.
- Huge supporter of local Argentine club San Lorenzo.
- Completed a master's degree in chemistry in the University of Buenos Aires. He also taught literature, philosophy, psychology, and theology.
- On his 77th birthday, he invited some homeless men and dogs to join in mass and have breakfast together at the Vatican.
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