Invigorated by Pope Francis: A Renewed Look at Our Faith

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Catholic Charities

Our Vision:
Poverty for No One;
Opportunity for Everyone

27,000 clients per year: Housing, shelter, early childhood enrichment, aging services, prenatal, refugee resettlement, etc.

Catholic Charities

• We work with People experiencing Homelessness

Over-view:
– Pope Francis and his papacy
– “Joy of the Gospel:” a look into one of Pope Francis’ major writings
– Looking at the Challenge before us and might this invigorate our faith today

Ultimately this is time for reflection for YOU!
What words or phrases come to mind when you think of Pope Francis?

ACTIONS

THE NEW POPE
2nd Anniversary of Pope Francis’ election
Why?
One Year into his Papacy, 
85% of the general public expressed favorable views of Pope Francis.

Pew- March 6, 2014

WHY is there so much excitement & energy surrounding Pope Francis?
ACTIONS we have seen from Pope Francis…
Pope Francis has renounced the grand papal penthouse on the top floor of the Vatican’s Apostolic Palace in favor of a modest two-room residence.

The Pope’s announcement said he was "trying out this type of simple living" in a common building with other priests.

By doing so, Pope Francis has broken a tradition which is more than a century old.

The decision removes the newly-elected Pope’s assistant reputation. As archbishop of Buenos Aires, he refused to move into the Bishop’s Palace.

Wishing more modest accommodations, Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio also often cooked his own meals.

By Amy Lynn


Pope Francis: “All I want is to go out for a pizza!”

By Amy Lynn

Image from www.uscatholic.org
In the words of our youth, “he’s the real deal”

What is Pope Francis really all about?

2. A rock star in America

Francis will visit the United States in September for the first time both as pope and in his life, traveling to Washington, D.C; New York, and Philadelphia. Word out of Rome is that the pontiff is nervous.
Why the name of “FRANCIS”?

• YES, a Jesuit chose the name of St. Francis of Assisi.

• But why Francis?

Why the name of “FRANCIS”?

• The pope clearly explained, “Immediately I thought of St. Francis of Assisi. Francis was a man of peace, a man of poverty, a man who loved and protected creation.”

FRANCIS’ Papacy is about?

• Peace

• Poverty

• Loving & protecting creation
FRANCIS’ Papacy is about?
• Peace

Praying for Peace...

Working for Peace...

Praying for Peace...

Peace is a precious gift, which must be promoted and protected... Never has the use of violence brought peace in its wake. War begets war, violence begets violence.

Pope Francis
Referring to Isaiah 9:5, 6

#PrayforPeace
FRANCIS’ Papacy is about?
• Peace
• Poverty

Remember:
• Pope Francis has repeatedly said: “How I would love a Church that is poor and for the poor.”

What is a Church that “is for the poor”? 

BUT...Who are the “poor”?

Maybe Pope Francis is showing us who are the “poor” through his actions?
Pope shares his birthday with homeless in Brazil.
Why the name FRANCIS?
What is a Church that “is for the poor”?

BUT...how might the Pope be challenging our definition of the “poor?”

Visiting those in prison
“The church must take leave of itself and go to the peripheries...”

- Pope Francis, at the time of his election as pope.
“If we step outside of ourselves, we will find poverty,” Pope Francis said, repeating his call for Catholics to do more to seek out those on the fringes of society who need help the most…”

- Pope Francis, May 18, 2013

Human dignity & the “poor”

- “never tire of working for a more just world, marked by greater solidarity! No one can remain insensitive to the inequalities that persist in the world!”

- Text from 7/25/2013 during a World Youth Day visit to a slum community in Rio, Brazil


*Text in the culture of selfishness must give way to solidarity* © 7/25/2013 of the Vatican Radio website
Human dignity...

“The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need, those who have nothing apart from their poverty!”

-Pope Francis,

[Text from 7/25/2013 during a World Youth Day visit to a slum community in Rio, Brazil
of the Vatican Radio website]

Human dignity & the “poor”

• “Everybody, according to his or her particular opportunities and responsibilities, should be able to make a personal contribution to putting an end to so many social injustices.”

-Text from 7/25/2013 during a World Youth Day visit to a slum community in Rio, Brazil
of the Vatican Radio website

FRANCIS’ Papacy is about?

• Peace
• Poverty
• Loving & protecting creation
On the environment...

"Take good care of creation. St. Francis wanted that. People occasionally forgive, but nature never does. If we don’t take care of the environment, there’s no way of getting around it."

-Pope Francis,

Text from a meeting with the Ecuador President on April 22, 2013

Image from Minneapolis Star Tribune, Nov. 21, 2014
The Essence of this JOY?
• “God’s saving LOVE…”

-Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 2013, Ch.3, #165

The New Evangelization
• “All of us are called to take part in this new missionary ‘going forth’.”

-Pope Francis, The Joy of the Gospel, 2013, Ch.1, #20
Small Group Discussion:

- What does our conversation stir/invigorate in you?

- How are the pope’s words and actions really not merely about the pope, but also about our faith & community?

Thank you!!

- Catholic Charities Office for Social Justice has a variety of other specialized presentations available including on Pope Francis, the Joy of the Gospel, Catholic Social Teaching, etc.

Contact our office directly for more information.