



Winter 2016-2017

Annual Meeting

Following is information on this winter's 2017 Bridges Foundation Annual Meeting, to which all are invited:

Saturday, February 18, 2017
12:15 pm - 3:00 pm
Webster Groves Christian Church
1320 W. Lockwood
St. Louis, MO 63122

ALL ARE WELCOME

R.S.V.P. by February 10

Cheryl Rauschenbach 636-225-8433 or
cheryl.rauschenbach@bridgesfoundation.org

During our Open Meeting a light lunch will be served and reports for each committee will be given. Following the meeting, there will be a Listening Session for all attendees with our Board members.



2017

ANNUAL MEETING

Pope Francis
Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J.
(1936-)

The name of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J. was mentioned prominently as a possible successor to Pope John Paul II when the latter died in 2005. Instead, Cardinal Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger was chosen, and he went on to take the name Pope Benedict XVI. On Pope Benedict's retirement in 2013, on the second day of the Papal conclave, Fr. Bergoglio was elected to become the next pope. He is the first pope from the Western Hemisphere, the first from the Americas, the first from the Society of Jesus, and the first non-European pope since Gregory III, from Syria, who died in 741. On becoming pope he took the name Francis after St. Francis of Assisi, who was widely known for his love of poverty and chastity. Pope Francis has a devotion to the Virgin Mary and to St. Thérèse of Lisieux; he often includes a picture of Thérèse when sending a letter.



Pope Francis

He was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Flores, a neighborhood of Buenos Aires, on December 17, 1936. He is the oldest of five children. His father, an immigrant to Argentina from Italy, worked as an accountant and his mother, a housewife, was a native of Buenos Aires. Jorge Bergoglio attended sixth grade at a school of

the Salesians of Don Bosco in Buenos Aires. He graduated from a technical secondary school with a chemical technician's diploma, and then went to work for several years in the foods section at Hickethier-Bachmann Laboratory. In addition to conducting tests in a chemical laboratory, the future pope had various jobs including that of a nightclub bouncer and a janitor who swept floors. He stopped by a church one day on his way to the Spring Day Celebration to go to confession, and was inspired by the priest there to consider a vocation to the priesthood. Bergoglio studied at the archdiocesan seminary (Inmaculada Concepción Seminary in Buenos Aires) for three years and entered the Society of Jesus as a novice on March 11, 1958. He professed his vows of poverty, chastity and obedience on March 12, 1960. In the 60's he taught psychology and literature at a high school in Santa Fe and later at the Colegio del Salvador in Buenos Aires. He continued with his studies in theology and was ordained on December 13, 1969.

After his ordination Fr. Bergoglio became professor of theology at the seminary of San Miguel, in San Miguel. He made his perpetual vows in 1973 and was appointed Provincial Superior of the Society of Jesus in Argentina, serving in that role from 1973 to 1979. Fr. Bergoglio was named the rector of the Philosophical and Theological Faculty of San Miguel in 1980, where he remained until 1986. Following several months of philosophy and theology studies in Frankfurt, Germany, he returned to his native Argentina as a confessor and spiritual director to the Jesuit community in Córdoba.

In 1992 Fr. Bergoglio was appointed Auxiliary Bishop of Buenos Aires, and in 1998 he became

(continues on page 3)

Pope Francis

(continued from page 2)

the Archbishop. In this capacity, he doubled the number of priests working in the slums of Buenos Aires. Partially as a result of his work as auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires, his Jesuit superiors asked him in 1992 to avoid residing in Jesuit houses. He complied with the request and did not visit Jesuit residences until sometime after he was elected pope. Created Cardinal by Pope John Paul II in 2001, he retained the position of Archbishop of Buenos Aires until 2011, resigning due to a church law requiring him to do so on attaining age 75.



Papal Seal of Pope Francis

Over the course of his lifetime Fr. Bergoglio has acquired a reputation for simplicity and humility. As Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina's capital and largest city, he used public transportation and on Holy Thursday observed the ritual of washing the feet of the poor, whether in the jails or hospitals. Since becoming Pope Francis in 2013, by choice he has continued to reside in his home at the Domus Sanctae Marthae guesthouse in Vatican City rather than in the papal apartments of the Apostolic Palace, as previous popes have done. He has stressed God's mercy and a strong commitment to social justice, as well as very strong concern for the poor. His Holiness is committed to his belief that the gospels call for reaching out to the disadvantaged of society, to working to improve conditions of the poor, and

that the Church should be more open and welcoming.

In July 2014, Pope Francis released ten tips for happiness which included:

- *"Live and let live."*
- *"Be giving of yourself to others."*
- *"Proceed calmly" in life.*
- *Have "a healthy sense of leisure."*
- *"Sunday is for family."*
- *Be "creative" with young people and find innovative ways to create dignified jobs.*
- *Respect and take care of nature.*
- *Stop being negative. "Letting go of negative things quickly is healthy," he said.*
- *"The worst thing of all is religious proselytism, which paralyzes."*
- *Work for peace. "We are living in a time of many wars," he said. "The call for peace must be shouted."*

– From Tejvan Pettinger, "Biography of Pope Francis"

Pope Francis is adamant that social work and religious devotion should be a much greater emphasis for the Church than issues of sexuality. He has been very clear that he will not tolerate corruption within the Church. His disdain for those who are corrupt is evident when he has cited the quotation from the Gospel of Luke, "It would be better for him if a millstone were put around his neck and he be thrown into the sea.(Luke 17:2)" The Pope has launched an investigation of the Vatican bank, seeking to clean up alleged corruption and to make it more transparent. He believes in the importance of rejecting concern with worldly affairs to the neglect of spiritual needs, and in making spiritual principles a priority.

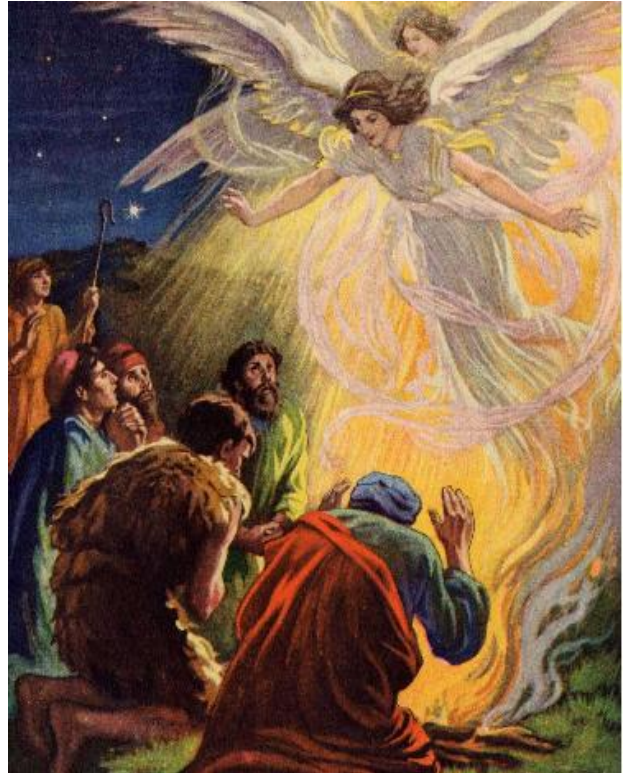
*THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST
OUR LORD
St. Luke 2:1-14*

First Point. Our Lady and her spouse St. Joseph journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem: “Joseph also went up from Galilee to Bethlehem, to express his obedience to Caesar, with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child.”

Second Point. “And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.”

Third Point. “There was . . . a multitude of the heavenly army saying: ‘Glory to God in the heavens.’”

– Spiritual Exercises 264



This is the newsletter of the Bridges Foundation of St. Louis. The newsletter is published quarterly and distributed as a PDF file via email, free to anyone who would like to receive it. Thank you to the contributors to this issue: Miriam Wesselmann, SSND and Tom Simon.

Quarterly issues are sent late in the months of March, June, September, and December. The deadline for submission of material is on the 15th day of each of those months for inclusion in the issue to be mailed later that month. Look for your next issue around the time that the seasons change.

The deadline for submissions to the next issue of the Bridges Newsletter is March 15, 2017. Please send articles, letters, mailing list additions and deletions, and other correspondence to: Tom Simon, Editor, 1730 Derrynane, Manchester, MO 63021, or by email to tsimon@tsimon.com.