



Pope Francis
1936-2025



People who help the Pope



Cardinals help the Pope to make the rules and laws for the Catholic Church.



Archbishops are in charge of the Bishops in his part of the country. This is called an archdiocese.

A bishop is the leader of the Church in a large part of the country, called a diocese.



When a Pope dies a new one must be chosen. The Cardinals come from all over the world and meet in the Vatican to vote for a new Pope.

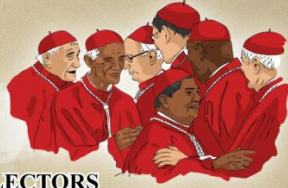


The Sistine Chapel is over 500 years old. Michelangelo took over four years to paint the ceiling of the Chapel.

They vote in the Sistine Chapel.

THE CONCLAVE

A centuries-old system to elect a new pope,
all done under the strictest secrecy



1. ELECTORS

Cardinals aged **under 80** meet 15 to 20 days after the end of a pope's reign. They are sworn to secrecy and **remain in isolation** until voting ends



2. VOTING

Conclaves are held in the **Sistine Chapel**. There are multiple rounds of voting per day until one candidate has a **2/3 majority**



3. SMOKE SIGNALS

Votes are counted then burned. **Black smoke** signals no decision. **White smoke** announces that a **new pope** is elected



4. HABEMUS PAPAM

The new pope selects a name and is fitted into his papal robes. He is presented at the balcony of **Saint Peter's Basilica**. The senior cardinal deacon announces: "Habemus Papam" - **We have a pope!**

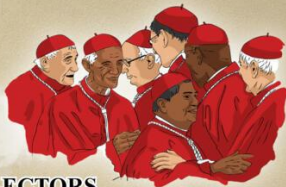
Every Cardinal writes the name of the man he would like to be Pope on a piece of paper.

Each Cardinal walks to the altar and puts the paper in a gold cup.

The votes are counted.

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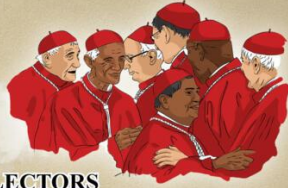
After the votes are counted the papers are burned.

If a Pope has not been chosen, dye is put into the fire with the papers and black smoke puffs out of the chimney.

The Cardinals must vote again.

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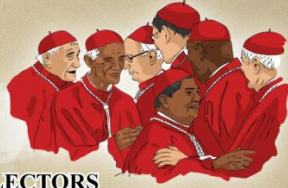
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When the Cardinals have chosen a Pope the papers are burned without the dye. White smoke comes out of the chimney and a new Pope has been chosen.

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The senior cardinal announces "Habemus Papam" - We have a new Pope!



Over 500 years ago 250 soldiers from Switzerland were picked to guard the Pope. Swiss soldiers were chosen because they were the best soldiers at the time. Since that time there has always been a number of Swiss Guards at the Vatican to protect the Pope.

HOW WILL GOD CHOOSE
THE NEXT POPE?





Holy Spirit guide the cardinals to choose the pope who will best lead our Church. Come, Holy Spirit, come!



Holy Spirit, please fill my heart with joy, peace, and courage.
Help me to be brave and share your peace with others.
Let me live with the joy of the Gospels!