Pope Francis Visits America

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It is not every day that a pope travels to the Americas — South, Central or North. The September visit of Pope Francis to Cuba and the United States added to his list of firsts: the first Jesuit to be elected pope, the first Latin American pontiff, and now, the first Holy See to address a joint meeting of Congress.

From KidsPost to the front page and its editorial and commentary pages, The Washington Post covered the papal visit to three cities. He told Congress, “Our efforts must aim to restoring hope, righting wrongs, maintaining commitments and thus promoting the well-being of individuals and of peoples.” He gave Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King Jr., Dorothy Day and Thomas Merton as American examples. Whether greeting bishops or school children, the empowered or poorest, he had a word and smile to share.
Pope Francis visits U.S. to share his message

He wants us all — even kids — to care for one another and the Earth, Washington’s archbishop says.

The Catholic Church has had 17 popes since the United States was founded 239 years ago. But only three traveled across the Atlantic from Vatican City for a visit. That will change Tuesday when Pope Francis arrives in Washington for a six-day U.S. visit, which includes stops in New York and Philadelphia.

The pope leads the world’s largest Christian church — with 1.2 billion members — so his visits overseas are a big deal. He usually meets heads of government. In Washington, Francis will be welcomed by the president and first lady — just the third time a pope has visited the White House — and he will address Congress, which is a first!

Francis is very familiar with firsts. He is the first pope from the Americas, having been born in Argentina. And he is the first to take the name Francis. He’s the first from the order of priests and brothers called Jesuits. And — good trivia...
question — he’s the first with just one lung, having lost the other to infection while a teenager.

Though he could live in a palace, Francis prefers a simple lifestyle. His home is a modest apartment. He loves soccer and a dance called the tango. In his pre-pope life, as a cardinal in Argentina, he cooked for himself and rode city buses. Don’t expect to see him riding Metro in Washington, however. He will ride in a “popemobile,” a white Jeep that is being watched over by the Secret Service.

KidsPost asked Cardinal Donald Wuerl, the leader of the Archdiocese of Washington, some questions about Francis’s message for young people.

Why are people so excited about this visit, and what about it is special for children?

In Philadelphia, the pope will greet people attending the World Meeting of Families. That is where we can best understand his visit in terms of family. The pope has a message for all of us: It is the message of Jesus, who tells us of a wonderful way of life where we each care for one another.

All of us know how important our family at home is to us. We grow up surrounded by the love and nurturing of family members. … Pope Francis will remind us that we are also part of the great human family, God’s family. … We are God’s children and therefore brothers and sisters to each other. Family members care for one another, they are nice to each other, they share and help each other.

Is there a role for children in some of the issues important to Pope Francis, such as climate change and family life?

Children will be very much in the forefront during the pope’s visit. He brings a message of love and care for everyone … and the things God made for us, such as the Earth. We need to take good care of it for others to enjoy after us.

Children can [support] the pope by doing good deeds for those less fortunate. … In caring for the Earth, the common home of all humanity, young people can begin by taking care of their family home: keeping their room clean, recycling and not wasting food or electricity. In this way, you learn to care for the environment, too.

Since the pope is head of the Catholic Church, is his message just for Catholic children?

The title “pope” means “papa,” so Pope Francis is like a father or grandfather to us all. He will be reaching out to all children to tell them how much God loves them.

The pope’s popularity worldwide has some writers comparing him to a rock star. Have you met him? What’s he like?

I have met him several times. In pictures, he is smiling and shows a kind and friendly face. That is exactly how he is in real life. You can see the love of God at work in him and his wish simply to share that love with everyone. If you have a chance to meet him, I know you will like him. He will also like you.

Is there anything you would like to add about Pope Francis and his message for children?

It is very important that children know that you have the chance to make this world a better place. It begins with taking time each day to say a prayer, to let God know that you want to be his friend, and then doing something kind and helpful for your family, your schoolmates and friends.

— Marylou Tousignant
September 15, 2015
Faithful Gathering

Many of the terms found in this crossword puzzle relate to faith and religious expression. After you have completed the puzzle, use five to eight of the terms in a short statement about practicing one’s beliefs.

**ACROSS**

1. Minister, leader of the flock
4. Statement of basic beliefs, guiding rules
8. Used to express surprise or strong emotion
9. Indigenous people of Alaska and northern Canada
10. Ordained individual who performs religious ceremonies
13. Light (abbrev.)
14. Hebrew word meaning Jehovah is God; girl’s name
15. Principle or belief held to be true
18. Situations and persons that test endurance or qualities
20. United Arab Republic, briefly
21. Conclusion of a prayer
23. Look! See! In scriptural expressions or poetry
24. Hindu daily ritual of the lamps on the Ganges River
25. Third tone of a diatonic scale
26. First person, nominative
27. Virginia postal code
29. Exist
31. To accept something as true or real
34. Social Security (abbrev.)
35. Japanese sash or belief in sorcery
37. Liechtenstein, briefly
38. Dominant religion in South Asia, esp. India
39. Added before a name to indicate “descendant” as in Conan’s surname
40. Wild animal’s resting place, den
41. Extraordinary perception, briefly
42. Pair of drums, played with hands; often played in Hindustani classical music
43. Opposite of starts
44. Reward or punishment of any action of humans

**DOWN**

1. Pontiff, _____ Francis
2. Belonging to a branch of Islam
3. Religious or solemn ceremony
4. Religious groups not part of accepted faiths, devoted followers
5. Ceremonial or religious act
6. End Time (abbrev.)
7. Set of beliefs or positions of a group
8. Work to get pay or goods
9. Fashion guru
10. Medical professional
11. Consumer
12. Opposite of hate
13. Christian faith known for simplicity of living
14. Calling, important assignment
15. Everyone, whole amount
16. Methods, arrangements
17. Prefix meaning two
18. Religion revealed by the Prophet Muhammad
19. Fabric worn to cover the face of head and shoulders
20. Method of transportation
21. First letter of the last letter in the Greek alphabet (alpha and _____)
22. Loose sleeveless outer garment worn as traditional dress by men in the Middle East
23. Animal used in sacrifices; seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu
24. Preacher’s Kid (abbrev.)
25. Teddy Roosevelt, briefly
A look ahead at Wednesday’s Mass

Pope Francis will be the third pope to visit the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception when he celebrates North America’s first canonization Mass, for Franciscan missionary Junipero Serra, on Wednesday. Here are some things to watch for.

**Blessed Sacrament Chapel**
In every church Pope Francis visits, he makes a point of praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament, consecrated bread stored in a tabernacle.

**Upper Sacristy**
Pope Francis will vest (dress) in the Upper Sacristy to prepare for Mass. Sacred items and vestments are stored here beneath an elaborate ceiling fresco depicting Jesus and his apostles.

Upon his arrival, Pope Francis will circulate among the crowd before entering. About 2,300 seminarians and novices will be seated inside the upper church.
Celebrating the Mass

Mass is a worship service that culminates in the celebration of Holy Communion.

Communion, also called the Eucharist, remembers Jesus’s Last Supper. Catholics receive the consecrated bread and wine as communion with the body and blood of Jesus Christ. During this Mass, Pope Francis will canonize a Spanish missionary, declaring that he should be venerated by the whole church.

The pope will celebrate Mass at approximately 4:15 p.m. on a stage built at the East Portico, which faces the grounds where guests will be seated and standing. Twenty-five thousand tickets were issued — 15,000 for seats and 10,000 for standing.

Symbols of the Eucharist

1. The chalice that holds wine is one of the most important sacred vessels.
2. Ciboria contain the bread, known as the host, that will be distributed at Holy Communion.
3. A paten contains the large host.
4. A square piece of linen called a corporal serves as a place mat.
5. A pall, usually a cord covered in linen, protects the wine.
6. The purificator is a linen napkin used for wiping excess wine from the chalice.
7. The pope will swing a metal thurible (or censer) containing incense, a symbol of prayers rising to heaven.
Liturgical garb

The pope will arrive wearing his regular attire. Popes have worn white since the 1500s, when Pope Pius V was elected and continued to wear his white Dominican habit.

Zucchetto: The pope, cardinals and bishops wear skullcaps called zucchetto, which is Italian for “little gourd.” A 400-year-old tradition allows a person to exchange a white zucchetto with the pope — during private meetings only.

Simar: Looks like a regular cassock (full-length garment) with sash and a short shoulder cape.

Pectoral cross: A friend gave Pope Francis this sterling silver cross when he became bishop of Buenos Aires.

Sash

Fisherman’s Ring: Indicates the wearer is a successor to Saint Peter, a fisherman. Francis chose a design rejected by Pope Paul VI that includes keys that symbolize the pope’s authority. Traditionally the ring is made of solid gold, but Francis’s is gold-plated sterling silver.

Francis will change into vestments to celebrate Mass. Among them:

Mitre: Worn by bishops (the pope is the bishop of Rome) during some parts of Mass.

Pallium: A wool band embroidered with six red crosses.

Alb: Tunic worn by clergy during Mass.

Chasuble: Color of the outermost layer varies according to the time in the liturgical calendar and the occasion. It can be white, gold, red, green, purple or pink.

Shoes: Francis wears his longtime favorite black shoes, a marked contrast to Benedict XVI’s distinctive red ones.

To figure out who’s who, look for these colors and clothing worn by church officials and Mass participants:

Scarlet
Cardinals are senior officials who have been elevated to their positions by a pope.

Reman purple
Bishops and archbishops oversee collections of local parishes called diocese and archdiocese. Nearly all cardinals are former bishops.

Black
Priests and seminarians.

Four masters of ceremonies, all monsignors, will be wearing fuschia cassocks and white surplice. They will be at the altar with the pope.

Two deacons who assist the pope will wear square tunics called dalmatics.

Other deacons and priests who help distribute Communion will wear long white tunics called albs with stoles across their chests.
1. Editorial cartoons have a news peg. What event is the setting for Toles’ cartoon?

2. Cartoonists depend on details to convey specific information. Give three details that confirm the identity of the speaker on the left?
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 

3. Who is the figure in the foreground? Support your answer with specific details.

4. Who do the figures on the right represent?

5. Who or what is the source of the heat?

6. Compare and contrast the viewpoints held on “climate.”

7. In the lower right corner, Tom Toles’ alter ego provides additional commentary. What is “fire and brimstone”?

8. What idea is conveyed by the adjective “new”? 
1. Editorial cartoonists convey information about the figures in their cartoons through details. Some of the figures are specific individuals. Who is the figure on the left? What details support your answer?
2. Sometimes a symbol is used to represent a group. Who does the symbol or figure on the right represent?
3. In what ways do the pen, sheet of paper and question work together to convey an idea?
4. Editorial cartoons use few words. What is the particular information conveyed by “Y•A•A•A•Y!” and the use of five sources for the same exclamation?
5. The cartoonist’s alter ego in the lower right is offering an option. Why is this a particularly salient offer?
6. Tom Toles brings together several issues and news events in the one editorial cartoon. What is:
   • The news event?
   • The current number of people seeking their party’s nomination to be the presidential candidate?
   • The concern that the speaker would receive public support?
   • The issue referred to in the option?
7. Editorial cartoons provide visual commentary. What is the point of view of Tom Toles?
Answers. Faithful Gathering

NOTE: Students should provide a short statement in which they have correctly used five to eight if the terms found in the crossword puzzle responses.