



MY LITTLE BOOK ABOUT POPE FRANCIS

It was a hot December summer day in Argentina when Regina Maria and Mario Jose Bergoglio welcomed the first of their five children.

Jorge Mario was born on December 17, 1936 in a suburb in Buenos Aires, where his parents migrated from Italy. He loved books and dancing. He had lots of friends, and had a pretty normal childhood.

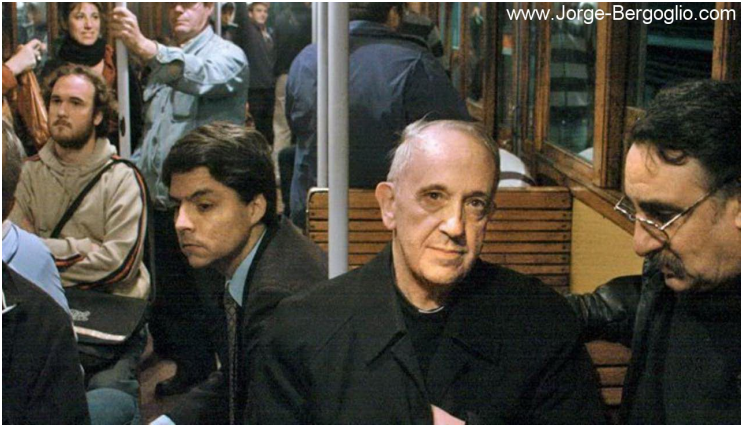
Jorge graduated with a degree in Chemistry. He worked as food technician before he realized that God was calling him to be a priest.



Photo from
<http://www.crossroadsinitiative.com>

He joined the Society of Jesus when he was 21 years old and was ordained a priest in December 1969, at age 32. He became Archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998. As Archbishop, he created new parishes and focused on telling the poor people about God and His Church.

In 2001, then Pope John Paul II gave Archbishop Bergoglio the rank of Cardinal. As part of the College of Cardinals, he became like an assistant to the Pope. Cardinals also have a special role of electing a Pope. Despite his position, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio remained humble and simple. He was very popular and well-loved by his fellow Latin Americans.



Riding public transportation in Buenos Aires



In February 28, 2013, Pope Benedict XVI announced his resignation. Soon after, the Cardinals had a meeting to elect a new leader for the Catholic Church. On March 13, 2013, on the second day of the conclave, Cardinal Jose Bergoglio, who we now know as Pope Francis, was elected as the 266th Pope.



The new Pope chose Francis as his Papal name, after St. Francis of Assisi who is also known for his love and concern for the poor. As Pope, he is successor of St. Peter, who Jesus first appointed as the leader of the Church. His main role is to make God's love known to all. The Pope lives in the Vatican City in Rome, Italy where he inspires all people – Catholic and non-Catholics alike, to follow Christ in all that they do.

