

pope francis the last pope

pope francis the last pope has become a compelling topic of discussion among scholars, theologians, and history enthusiasts. This article explores the origins and significance of the claim that Pope Francis might be the last pope, a notion fueled by centuries-old prophecies, recent global events, and shifts within the Catholic Church. We examine the historical context, analyze prophecies such as those of St. Malachy, delve into Pope Francis's papacy, and consider the perspectives shaping this intriguing theory. Readers will find a comprehensive breakdown of the facts, the impact on Catholic doctrine, and the broader implications for Christianity and global society. Whether you are interested in religious prophecy, church history, or contemporary spiritual leadership, this article provides an in-depth exploration that is both informative and SEO-optimized. Continue reading to uncover the roots, debates, and realities surrounding the question: Is Pope Francis the last pope?

- Origins of the “Last Pope” Prophecy
- St. Malachy’s Prophecy and Its Influence
- Pope Francis’s Papacy: A Turning Point?
- Doctrinal and Theological Perspectives
- Modern Speculation and Global Impact
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Origins of the “Last Pope” Prophecy

Historical Context of Papal Prophecies

The idea of the “last pope” traces its origins to medieval Europe, a period rife with religious fervor and apocalyptic expectations. Throughout history, prophecies have played a significant role in shaping beliefs about the papacy and its future. Many prophecies emerged in times of turmoil, often reflecting societal anxieties about change, corruption, and the fate of the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church, being one of the oldest institutions in the world, has witnessed numerous speculations about its leaders. The question of the final pope has periodically surfaced, especially during transitions or crises. These prophecies, while not officially accepted by church doctrine, have influenced popular imagination and theological debate.

Key Sources of the “Last Pope” Theory

- St. Malachy’s Prophecy

- Apocalyptic writings and interpretations
- Societal and political upheavals
- Modern media and online speculation

Each source brings unique perspectives to the theory, blending historical events with spiritual beliefs. The “last pope” concept often resurfaces during periods of global uncertainty, sparking renewed interest in ancient predictions.

St. Malachy's Prophecy and Its Influence

Understanding St. Malachy's List of Popes

One of the most cited sources for the idea of the last pope is St. Malachy's prophecy. Allegedly written in the 12th century, this list claims to predict each pope from Celestine II until the end of time. The final entry on the list refers to a “Peter the Roman,” who is said to guide the church through great tribulation before its ultimate end.

The authenticity of St. Malachy's prophecy has been debated by historians and theologians. While some view it as a genuine mystical vision, others argue it is a forgery created centuries after Malachy's death. Regardless of its origin, the prophecy has had a significant influence on Catholic and popular thought.

Speculation Surrounding Pope Francis

When Pope Francis was elected in 2013, many theorists began to connect his papacy to the last entry in St. Malachy's list. While the prophecy mentions “Peter the Roman,” some interpret the symbolism rather than literal naming. Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Argentina, chose the name Francis in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, yet some speculate on potential links due to his background and the timing of his election.

This speculation is fueled by global events, church reforms, and the sense that Pope Francis's leadership represents a critical moment for the Vatican. However, there is no official church endorsement of this prophecy, and mainstream Catholic doctrine does not recognize an imminent end to the papacy.

Pope Francis's Papacy: A Turning Point?

Major Reforms and Global Outreach

Pope Francis's tenure has been marked by significant reforms and an emphasis

on global outreach. He has addressed issues such as climate change, poverty, migration, and interfaith dialogue. His approach to leadership is often described as humble, progressive, and focused on inclusivity.

Under Pope Francis, the Catholic Church has taken steps to modernize its practices and respond to contemporary challenges. This shift has inspired both admiration and controversy, as some traditionalists view his reforms as a departure from established doctrine.

Controversies and Challenges

- Handling of church scandals
- Responses to global crises
- Debates over doctrinal changes
- Reception among conservative and liberal Catholics

These issues have contributed to the perception that Pope Francis's papacy is a pivotal moment in church history. The theory that he could be the last pope is intertwined with debates about the future direction of the Catholic Church and its role in a rapidly changing world.

Doctrinal and Theological Perspectives

The Catholic Church's Position

Officially, the Catholic Church does not endorse prophecies predicting the end of the papacy. The office of the pope is viewed as a continuous institution, rooted in the succession from St. Peter. While private revelations and prophecies can be intriguing, they do not form part of church doctrine.

Catholic teaching emphasizes faith in the enduring nature of the church, regardless of historical challenges. The notion of the last pope is considered speculative and not supported by theological evidence.

Theological Debate and Interpretation

Theological scholars have examined the "last pope" theory from multiple angles. Some argue that prophecies serve as metaphors for spiritual renewal rather than literal predictions. Others suggest that crises within the church are cyclical and do not signify an absolute end.

Interpretations vary widely, with most mainstream theologians advocating caution and discernment in addressing such prophecies. The emphasis remains on the mission of the church rather than apocalyptic speculation.

Modern Speculation and Global Impact

Media Influence and Public Perception

In the digital age, speculation about Pope Francis as the last pope has gained momentum through media coverage, books, documentaries, and online forums. Sensational headlines attract attention, often blending fact with conjecture.

Public interest in the papacy and its future has led to debates not only within religious communities but also among secular audiences. The intersection of prophecy, politics, and global events continues to fuel discussions on the possible end of the papal office.

Impact on Catholicism and Christianity

1. Renewed interest in church history and prophecy
2. Debate over reform versus tradition
3. Questions about leadership succession
4. Broader impact on interfaith dialogue
5. Influence on global perceptions of Christianity

These impacts highlight the enduring fascination with the papacy and the role of Pope Francis in shaping contemporary religious thought. Whether or not he is the last pope, his legacy continues to influence debates about faith, authority, and the future of the Catholic Church.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What is the origin of the claim that Pope Francis could be the last pope?

A: The claim originates from prophecies such as St. Malachy's list of popes, as well as interpretations of apocalyptic writings and modern speculation during times of global change.

Q: Does St. Malachy's prophecy specifically mention Pope Francis?

A: St. Malachy's prophecy refers to a "Peter the Roman" as the final pope, but it does not mention Pope Francis by name. Some theorists interpret symbolic connections, but there is no direct reference.

Q: How does the Catholic Church view prophecies about the last pope?

A: The Catholic Church does not officially recognize or endorse prophecies predicting the end of the papacy. Such speculations are considered outside of accepted doctrine.

Q: What reforms has Pope Francis introduced during his papacy?

A: Pope Francis has focused on issues like climate change, poverty, migration, church transparency, and increased interfaith dialogue, marking a shift towards inclusivity and global responsibility.

Q: Why do some believe Pope Francis could be the last pope?

A: This belief is fueled by interpretations of prophecies, perceived global crises, and the significant reforms Pope Francis has implemented, which some view as transformative for the church.

Q: Has the idea of the last pope affected Catholic practices?

A: While the idea has sparked debate and curiosity, it has not led to official changes in Catholic practices or doctrine.

Q: What are the main criticisms of the "last pope" theory?

A: Critics argue the theory is speculative, not grounded in official church teachings, and often relies on misinterpretations of historical prophecies.

Q: Is there evidence that the papacy will end with Pope Francis?

A: There is no factual evidence or official statement supporting the idea that the papacy will end with Pope Francis. The Catholic Church maintains continuity of leadership.

Q: How has media coverage influenced perceptions about Pope Francis as the last pope?

A: Media coverage has amplified speculation, often blending historical prophecy with current events to generate public interest and debate.

Q: What legacy is Pope Francis likely to leave?

A: Pope Francis's legacy is expected to be one of reform, compassion, and global outreach, regardless of speculation about him being the last pope.

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Pope Francis: The Last Pope? Exploring the Prophecy and the Reality

The question hangs in the air, whispered in hushed tones amongst theologians and casually tossed around in online forums: Is Pope Francis the last pope? The idea, fueled by centuries-old prophecies and anxieties about the future of the Catholic Church, captivates and concerns in equal measure. This article delves into the origins of this intriguing speculation, examining the prophecies often cited, the current state of the Catholic Church, and offering a balanced perspective on the likelihood - or unlikelihood - of Pope Francis being the final pontiff. We'll explore the historical context, analyze the theological implications, and ultimately, leave you with a clearer understanding of this complex and fascinating question.

The Prophecies: A Look at the Sources

The notion of a "last pope" often draws upon various prophecies, none definitively linked to the papacy. Many are interpretations of cryptic texts, open to widely differing interpretations. For instance, some point to the Prophecy of the Popes, a 16th-century text predicting a series of popes leading to the end times. However, the interpretation of this prophecy is highly contested, with different scholars identifying different popes as fulfilling the described characteristics. The ambiguity inherent in these predictions makes them unreliable predictors of any specific pope's finality.

It's crucial to understand that these prophecies are not considered canonical by the Catholic Church. They are viewed as historical artifacts, interesting from a historical perspective but lacking the theological weight of official Church doctrine. Attempting to definitively link a specific pope to a prophecy is therefore an exercise in speculative interpretation, not theological analysis.

The State of the Catholic Church: A Shifting Landscape

The Catholic Church faces significant challenges in the 21st century. Declining attendance in many Western countries, internal divisions on social and theological issues, and the ongoing fallout from the clergy sexual abuse scandal are just some of the hurdles the Church navigates. These issues contribute to the unease surrounding the future of the institution, fueling speculation about a potential end, or at least a significant paradigm shift.

Pope Francis' papacy has been characterized by attempts at reform and a focus on social justice. His emphasis on inclusivity and his calls for a more humble and servant-oriented Church have resonated with some, while others remain critical of his approach. His efforts, however, are not a direct indication of a final pontificate. Rather, they represent an attempt to address the existing challenges and adapt the Church to a changing world.

Theological Considerations: Succession and the Papacy

The Catholic Church's understanding of the papacy rests on its belief in the unbroken apostolic succession, tracing the line of authority back to St. Peter. The idea of a "last pope" contradicts this fundamental belief, suggesting a break in this lineage – a notion that's inconsistent with core Catholic doctrine. The Church believes the papacy will continue until the second coming of Christ. Therefore, the concept of a "last pope" is more of a symbolic or apocalyptic interpretation, not a reflection of official theological understanding.

The election of a new pope follows established procedures within the Church. The College of Cardinals gathers in conclave to select the next successor to St. Peter. This process has been in place for centuries, demonstrating the Church's unwavering commitment to maintaining the continuity of the papacy.

Debunking the Myth: A Realistic Perspective

While the idea of Pope Francis being the last pope is intriguing, it lacks any substantial theological or historical grounding. The prophecies used to support this claim are vague and subject to diverse interpretations. More importantly, the very notion contradicts the core tenets of Catholic belief in the unbroken apostolic succession. The current challenges facing the Church, while significant, are not inherently indicative of an imminent end to the papacy.

The speculation surrounding Pope Francis's potential status as the final pope is more a reflection of anxieties about the future of the Church than a prediction based on solid evidence. It's a captivating narrative, but ultimately a speculative one.

Conclusion

The question of whether Pope Francis is the last pope remains a fascinating topic of discussion. However, based on theological principles, historical evidence, and the established processes within the Catholic Church, it's highly improbable. The current challenges faced by the Church call for adaptation and reform, not an end to the papacy itself. The future remains unwritten, but the likelihood of a continued papal succession is far greater than the possibility of Pope Francis being the final pontiff.

FAQs

1. Are there any official Church pronouncements on the "last pope" prophecy? No, the Catholic Church does not recognize or endorse any prophecies claiming to predict the final pope.
2. What are the main criticisms of the prophecies related to a final pope? The main criticisms include their vague wording, multiple and contradictory interpretations, and lack of theological basis within the Church's doctrine.
3. How does the Church ensure the continuation of the papacy? The established process of papal election through the College of Cardinals guarantees the continuation of the papacy.
4. Does Pope Francis's approach to leadership suggest the end of the papacy? No. His reforms are attempts to address the Church's challenges and adapt it to modern society, not a sign of its impending end.
5. Why is the idea of a "last pope" so popular? The idea resonates with anxieties about the future of the Catholic Church and its role in a rapidly changing world. It taps into broader anxieties about the future itself.

pope francis the last pope: Pope Francis: The Last Pope? Leo Lyon Zagami, Brad Olsen, 2015-03-05 Pope Francis: The Last Pope? reveals the possible reasons for the choice of historical abdication of Benedict XVI and traces the process that led to the election of Cardinal Bergoglio: the Pope who many have prophesized will be the last and will bring the Catholic Church to its end. The book details the history of this prophecy, which was hidden away in the Vatican for hundreds of years and predicts that the reign of the last Pope will herald the beginning of great apostasy followed by great tribulation. It also explores the recent scandals in the Catholic Church and addresses questions including What pressures decreed the end of the pontificate of Benedict XVI? What powers have an interest for the Church to end? and What is the relationship between the Vatican and the New World Order? Perfect for anyone interested in prophecies about the end times, Pope Francis: The Last Pope reveals the truth about what numerology says about the last Pope and the darkness that may follow him, as well as fascinating investigations into the gay lobby, Freemasonry, and the Jesuit agenda in the Vatican and how it relates to the first Borgia Pope, the legend of the White Pope and the Black Pope, and how Benedict's resignation may fulfill an ancient prophecy.

pope francis the last pope: The Last Pope Robert Howells, 2013-06-04 A historian dissects the prophecies of a Nostradamus-like seer who suggests the end of the papal throne—and the beginning of a new era in the Roman Catholic Church Nearly a thousand years ago, the Archbishop of Armagh—later canonized as St. Malachy—made a series of prophecies that were hidden in the Vatican for four hundred years. His predictions gave clues to the identities of the 109 Popes from medieval times to present day, including the final Pope who would oversee the end of the Papacy and the fall of the Roman Catholic Church. The Last Pope examines the sudden 'rediscovery' of these prophecies in the sixteenth century, how they may have been used as propaganda in the campaign to promote Pope Gregory XIV to the papal throne, and how the 2013 papal election may have been our last. Robert Howells has spent the last twenty years researching and writing about religious and historical mysteries. By drawing on his extensive knowledge of both the political and spiritual history of the Catholic Church, he places Pope Francis in the context of what will potential be the most challenging era for the papacy. The Last Pope seeks to answer questions surrounding the future of the Catholic church, offering an investigating that will fascinate readers who are fascinated by the unresolved mysteries in the history of Christianity.

pope francis the last pope: The Prophecies of St. Malachy Peter Bander, 1993-07 The short; cryptic prophecies of St. Malachy; the Primate of Ireland; made circa 1140 while on a visit at Rome; about each Pope from his time till the End of Time--all based on visions he had at the time. From what we know of recent Popes; these prophecies are accurate; based on interior evidence alone. What is so very sobering is the fact there are only 2 Popes left after Pope John Paul II!!

pope francis the last pope: The Last Pope Robert Howells, 2013-06-20 A historian dissects the prophecies of a Nostradamus-like seer who suggests the end of the papal throne—and the beginning of a new era in the Roman Catholic Church Nearly a thousand years ago, the Archbishop of Armagh—later canonized as St. Malachy—made a series of prophecies that were hidden in the Vatican for four hundred years. His predictions gave clues to the identities of the 109 Popes from medieval times to present day, including the final Pope who would oversee the end of the Papacy and the fall of the Roman Catholic Church. The Last Pope examines the sudden 'rediscovery' of these prophecies in the sixteenth century, how they may have been used as propaganda in the campaign to promote Pope Gregory XIV to the papal throne, and how the 2013 papal election may have been our last. Robert Howells has spent the last twenty years researching and writing about religious and historical mysteries. By drawing on his extensive knowledge of both the political and spiritual history of the Catholic Church, he places Pope Francis in the context of what will potential be the most challenging era for the papacy. The Last Pope seeks to answer questions surrounding the future of the Catholic church, offering an investigating that will fascinate readers who are fascinated by the unresolved mysteries in the history of Christianity.

pope francis the last pope: The Last Pope Ph. D. Bob Thiel, 2013-03-01 Many believe that Pope Benedict XVI was number 111 of the 112 popes prophesied by the Catholic saint and Bishop Malachy. Some have said that there would only be 112, and since Pope Francis I is after Pope Benedict XVI, this could make him 112-Peter the Roman-the last pope-the pope who Bishop Malachy said would oversee the destruction of Rome--and this is consistent with biblical prophecy. Catholic prophecies also tell of an antipope who will betray that faith. Could this really be Pope Francis I? Is Pope Francis I possibly the Antichrist? What will happen in the future if he or a successor is?

pope francis the last pope: Petrus Romanus Thomas R. Horn, Cris Putnam, 2012 According to the prophecy of the last Pope takes from St. Malachy's Prophecy of the Popes, the Pope who follow Pope Benedict XVI will be the false prophet who leads the world's religious communities into embracing the political leader known as the Antichrist. Learn how the Vatican is tied to the Mayan 2012 prophecy; the fourth secret of Fatima; and the Enthronement of Lucifer at the Vatican.

pope francis the last pope: Last Testament Pope Benedict XVI, Peter Seewald, 2016-11-04 'Gripping ... An exquisite conversation between two people who know each other, like each other, and have mutual respect for one another' - Catholic Times Since resigning from the papacy in 2013, the first Pope in over 700 years to do so, Pope Benedict has lived quietly in a convent in the Vatican

gardens in Rome. He has devoted himself to a life of prayer and study and has vowed to remain silent, until now. So much controversy still surrounds Pope Benedict's time in office – in this book, written with bestselling German author Peter Seewald, he addresses the issues of his papacy and reveals how, at his late age, governing and reforming the Church was beyond him. *Last Testament* is also an autobiography, recalling Pope Benedict's childhood in Germany under Nazism, his early development as a priest, and eventually his appointment as Archbishop of Munich. After becoming Pope, his account deals with the controversies that rocked the Catholic world – how he enraged Muslims with his Regensburg speech, what he did and did not do to stamp out the clerical sexual abuse of children, the 'Vatileaks' scandal and how he broke up a gay cabal within the Vatican itself. At all times, we see a man who is shy and retiring and modest being exceptionally open and frank with the outside world. In this *Last Testament*, a unique book insofar as no other living Pope has had the opportunity to write an account having left office, Benedict gives in his own words an unprecedented view of the difficulties, the achievements and the consequences of his time as head of the Catholic Church worldwide.

pope francis the last pope: The Last Pope David Osborn, 2005-03-01 Has drawn comparisons with *The Shoes of the Fisherman* and *The DaVinci Code*. —Connecticut Post In the tradition of the classic bestseller *The Shoes of the Fisherman*, this evocative and moving novel takes you deep inside the inner world of the Vatican and the American branch of the Holy See to dramatize the great moral issues dividing the Church. The passing of humble and beloved Pope Gregory XVIII brings the Lords of the Church to the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome to meet in its secret recesses and elect a new pope. They find they must choose between a caring, but guilt-ridden, American cardinal (the very same young priest who made a heart-rending confession so many years ago) who would bring reforms to the Church, or a cardinal whose soul belongs to the Inquisition. At stake—the future of the Church itself.

pope francis the last pope: Fratelli Tutti Pope Francis , 2020-11-05

pope francis the last pope: To Change the Church Ross Douthat, 2019-03-19 A New York Times columnist and one of America's leading conservative thinkers considers Pope Francis's efforts to change the church he governs in a book that is "must reading for every Christian who cares about the fate of the West and the future of global Christianity" (Rod Dreher, author of *The Benedict Option*). Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in 1936, today Pope Francis is the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church. Pope Francis's stewardship of the Church, while perceived as a revelation by many, has provoked division throughout the world. "If a conclave were to be held today," one Roman source told *The New Yorker*, "Francis would be lucky to get ten votes." In his "concise, rhetorically agile...adroit, perceptive, gripping account (*The New York Times Book Review*), Ross Douthat explains why the particular debate Francis has opened—over communion for the divorced and the remarried—is so dangerous: How it cuts to the heart of the larger argument over how Christianity should respond to the sexual revolution and modernity itself, how it promises or threatens to separate the church from its own deep past, and how it divides Catholicism along geographical and cultural lines. Douthat argues that the Francis era is a crucial experiment for all of Western civilization, which is facing resurgent external enemies (from ISIS to Putin) even as it struggles with its own internal divisions, its decadence, and self-doubt. Whether Francis or his critics are right won't just determine whether he ends up as a hero or a tragic figure for Catholics. It will determine whether he's a hero, or a gambler who's betraying both his church and his civilization into the hands of its enemies. "A balanced look at the struggle for the future of Catholicism...*To Change the Church* is a fascinating look at the church under Pope Francis" (*Kirkus Reviews*). Engaging and provocative, this is "a pot-boiler of a history that examines a growing ecclesial crisis" (*Washington Independent Review of Books*).

pope francis the last pope: Dear Pope Francis Pope Francis, 2016-02-22 A New York Times Best Seller 2017 Illumination Book Awards, Gold (tie): Children's Picture Book 2017 Independent Press Awards, Distinguished Favorite: Book Cover Design, Children's 2017 Catholic Press Association Book Awards, First Place: Children's Books 2017 Catholic Press Association Book

Awards, First Place: Pope Francis 2017 Association of Catholic Publishers' "Excellence in Publishing Book Awards," Book of the Year If you could ask Pope Francis one question, what would it be? Children have questions and struggles just like adults, but rarely are they given the chance to voice their concerns and ask the big questions resting deep in their hearts. In *Dear Pope Francis*, Pope Francis gives them that chance and celebrates their spiritual depth by directly answering questions from children around the world. Some are fun. Some are serious. And some will quietly break your heart. But all of them are from children who deserve to know and feel God's unconditional love. Also available in Spanish as *Querido Papa Francisco*. Feels akin to sitting in on a series of intimate conversations. -Publishers Weekly The People's Pope shows that he is a down-to-earth man who understands both religion and children. -Kirkus Reviews

pope francis the last pope: Pope Francis Among the Wolves Marco Politi, 2015-09-15 A behind-the-scenes view of the power struggles within the Vatican and "a look inside the byzantine halls of the institutional Catholic Church."—Publishers Weekly A journalist who has long covered the Vatican, Marco Politi takes us deep inside the struggle roiling the Roman Curia and the Catholic Church worldwide, beginning with Benedict XVI, the pope who famously resigned in 2013, and intensifying with the unexpected election of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, archbishop of Buenos Aires, now known as Pope Francis. Politi's account balances the perspectives of Pope Francis's supporters, Benedict's sympathizers, and those disappointed members of the laity who feel alienated by the institution's secrecy, financial corruption, and refusal to modernize. Politi dramatically recounts the sexual scandals that have rocked the church and the accusations of money laundering and other financial misdeeds swirling around the Vatican and the Italian Catholic establishment, and how Pope Francis's attempts to address these crimes has been met with resistance from entrenched factions. He writes of the decline in church attendance and vocations to the priesthood as the church continues to prohibit divorced and remarried Catholics from receiving Communion. He visits European parishes where women perform the functions of missing male priests—and where the remaining parishioners would welcome the ordination of women, if the church would allow it. Pope Francis's emphasis on pastoral compassion for all who struggle with the burden of family life has also provoked the ire of traditionalists. He knows from experience what life is like for the poor in South America and elsewhere, and highlights the contrast between the vital, vibrant faith of these parishioners and the disillusionment of European Catholics. As Pope Francis and his supporters are locked in battle with the defenders of the traditional hard line and with ecclesiastical corruption, the future of Catholicism is at stake—and it is far from certain Francis will succeed in saving the institution from decline.

pope francis the last pope: The Two Popes Anthony McCarten, 2019-11-07 On 28 February 2013, a 600-year-old tradition was shattered: the conservative Pope Benedict XVI made a startling announcement. He would resign. Reeling from the news, the College of Cardinals rushed to Rome to congregate in the Sistine Chapel to pick his successor. Their unlikely choice? Francis, the first non-European pope in 1,200 years, a one time tango club bouncer, a passionate football fan, a man with the common touch. From the prize-winning screenwriter of *The Theory of Everything* and *Darkest Hour*, *The Pope* is a fascinating, revealing and often funny tale of two very different men whose destinies converge with each other - they both live in the Vatican - and the wider world. How did these two men become two of the most powerful people on Earth? What's it like to be the Pope? What does the future hold for the Catholic Church and its 1 billion followers? *The Pope* is a dual biography that masterfully combines these two popes' lives into one gripping narrative. From Benedict and Francis' experiences of war in their homelands - when they were still Joseph and Jorge - and the sexual abuse scandal that continues to rock the Church to its foundations, to the intrigue and the occasional comedy of life in the Vatican, *The Pope* glitters with the darker and the lighter details of life inside one of the world's most opaque but significant institutions.

pope francis the last pope: Lord of the World Robert Hugh Benson, 2022-11-13 *Lord of the World* is a dystopian novel that centers upon the reign of the Anti-Christ and the End of the World. In early 21st century London, two priests, the white-haired Father Percy Franklin and the younger

Father John Francis, are visiting the subterranean lodgings of the elderly Mr. Templeton. A Catholic and former Conservative Member of Parliament who witnessed the marginalization of his religion and the destruction of his party, Mr. Templeton describes to the two priests the last century of British and world history.

pope francis the last pope: *Laudato Si* Pope Francis, 2015-07-18 "In the heart of this world, the Lord of life, who loves us so much, is always present. He does not abandon us, he does not leave us alone, for he has united himself definitively to our earth, and his love constantly impels us to find new ways forward. Praise be to him!" – Pope Francis, *Laudato Si'* In his second encyclical, *Laudato Si': On the Care of Our Common Home*, Pope Francis draws all Christians into a dialogue with every person on the planet about our common home. We as human beings are united by the concern for our planet, and every living thing that dwells on it, especially the poorest and most vulnerable. Pope Francis' letter joins the body of the Church's social and moral teaching, draws on the best scientific research, providing the foundation for "the ethical and spiritual itinerary that follows." *Laudato Si'* outlines: The current state of our "common home" The Gospel message as seen through creation The human causes of the ecological crisis Ecology and the common good Pope Francis' call to action for each of us Our Sunday Visitor has included discussion questions, making it perfect for individual or group study, leading all Catholics and Christians into a deeper understanding of the importance of this teaching.

pope francis the last pope: *Pope Francis* Paul Vallely, 2013-08-01 From his first appearance on a Vatican balcony Pope Francis proved himself a Pope of Surprises. With a series of potent gestures, history's first Jesuit pope declared a mission to restore authenticity and integrity to a Catholic Church bedevilled by sex abuse and secrecy, intrigue and in-fighting, ambition and arrogance. He declared it should be 'a poor Church, for the poor'. But there is a hidden past to this modest man with the winning smile. Jorge Mario Bergoglio was previously a bitterly divisive figure. His decade as leader of Argentina's Jesuits left the religious order deeply split. And his behaviour during Argentina's Dirty War, when military death squads snatched innocent people from the streets, raised serious questions – on which this book casts new light. Yet something dramatic then happened to Jorge Mario Bergoglio. He underwent an extraordinary transformation. After a time of exile he re-emerged having turned from a conservative authoritarian into a humble friend of the poor – and became Bishop of the Slums, making enemies among Argentina's political classes in the process. For Pope Francis – *Untying the Knots*, Paul Vallely travelled to Argentina and Rome to meet Bergoglio's intimates over the last four decades. His book charts a remarkable journey. It reveals what changed the man who was to become Pope Francis – from a reactionary into the revolutionary who is unnerving Rome's clerical careerists with the extent of his behind-the-scenes changes. In this perceptive portrait Paul Vallely offers both new evidence and penetrating insights into the kind of pope Francis could become.

pope francis the last pope: *The Mind of Pope Francis* Massimo Borghesi, 2018-08-15 A commonly held impression is that Pope Francis is a compassionate shepherd and determined leader but that he lacks the intellectual depth of his recent predecessors. Massimo Borghesi's *The Mind of Pope Francis: Jorge Mario Bergoglio's Intellectual Journey* dismantles that image. Borghesi recounts and analyzes, for the first time, Bergoglio's intellectual formation, exploring the philosophical, theological, and spiritual principles that support the profound vision at the heart of this pope's teaching and ministry. Central to that vision is the church as a *coincidentia oppositorum*, holding together what might seem to be opposing and irreconcilable realities. Among his guiding lights have been the Jesuit saints, Ignatius and Peter Faber; philosophers Gaston Fessard, Romano Guardini, and Alberto Methol Ferrer; and theologians Henri de Lubac and Hans Urs von Balthasar. Recognizing how these various strands have come together to shape the mind and heart of Jorge Mario Bergoglio offers essential insights into who he is and the way he is leading the church. Notably, this groundbreaking book is informed by four interviews provided to the author, via audio recordings, by the pope himself on his own intellectual formation, major portions of which are published here for the first time.

pope francis the last pope: The Joy of the Gospel Pope Francis, 2014-10-07 The perfect gift! A specially priced, beautifully designed hardcover edition of *The Joy of the Gospel* with a foreword by Robert Barron and an afterword by James Martin, SJ. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus... In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." – Pope Francis This special edition of Pope Francis's popular message of hope explores themes that are important for believers in the 21st century. Examining the many obstacles to faith and what can be done to overcome those hurdles, he emphasizes the importance of service to God and all his creation. Advocating for "the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned," the Holy Father shows us how to respond to poverty and current economic challenges that affect us locally and globally. Ultimately, Pope Francis demonstrates how to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, "to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small." Profound in its insight, yet warm and accessible in its tone, *The Joy of the Gospel* is a call to action to live a life motivated by divine love and, in turn, to experience heaven on earth. Includes a foreword by Robert Barron, author of *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* and James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

pope francis the last pope: Inside the Vatican Thomas J. Reese S.J., 1998-02-19 There are one billion Catholics in the world today, spread over every continent, speaking almost every conceivable language, and all answering to a single authority. The Vatican is a unique international organization, both in terms of its extraordinary power and influence, and in terms of its endurance. Popes come and go, but the elaborate and complex bureaucracy called the Vatican lives on. For centuries, it has served and sometimes undermined popes; it has been praised and blamed for the actions of the pope and for the state of the church. Yet an objective examination of the workings of the Vatican has been unavailable until now. Drawing on more than a hundred interviews with Vatican officials, this book affords a firsthand look at the people, the politics, and the organization behind the institution. Reese brings remarkable clarity to the almost Byzantine bureaucracy of congregations, agencies, secretariats, tribunals, nunciature, and offices, showing how they serve the pope and, through him, the universal church. He gives a lively account of how popes are elected and bishops appointed, how dissident theologians are disciplined and civil authorities dealt with. Throughout, revealing and colorful anecdotes from church history and the present day bring the unique culture of the Vatican to life. The Vatican is a fascinating institution, a model of continuity and adaptation, which remains constant while functioning powerfully in a changing world. As never before, this book provides a clear, objective perspective on how the enormously complex institution surrounding the papacy operates on a day-to-day level, how it has adapted and endured for close to two thousand years, and how it is likely to face the challenges of the next millennium.

pope francis the last pope: The Liminal Papacy of Pope Francis Faggioli, Massimo , 2020-03-18 A historical analysis of the ways in which Francis's papacy is unusual and thus open to greater possibilities than many of his predecessors--

pope francis the last pope: The Pope's Last Crusade Peter Eisner, 2013-03-19 Drawing on untapped resources, exclusive interviews, and new archival research, *The Pope's Last Crusade* by Peter Eisner is a thrilling narrative that sheds new light on Pope Pius XI's valiant effort to condemn Nazism and the policies of the Third Reich—a crusade that might have changed the course of World War II. A shocking tale of intrigue and suspense, illustrated with sixteen pages of archival photos, *The Pope's Last Crusade: How an American Jesuit Helped Pope Pius XI's Campaign to Stop Hitler* illuminates this religious leader's daring yet little-known campaign, a spiritual and political battle that would be derailed by Pius's XI's death just a few months later. Peter Eisner reveals how Pius XI intended to unequivocally reject Nazism in one of the most unprecedented and progressive pronouncements ever issued by the Vatican, and how a group of conservative churchmen plotted to prevent it. For years, only parts of this story have been known. Eisner offers a new interpretation of this historic event and the powerful figures at its center in an essential work that provides

thoughtful insight and raises controversial questions impacting our own time.

pope francis the last pope: A Call to Serve Stefan von Kempis, Philip F. Lawler, 2013 Two veteran Catholic journalists, one based at the Vatican and the other in the U.S., collaborate to explore the unprecedented papal election of Pope Francis ... [drawn] from conversations, interviews, inside information and the Pope's own writings and talks--Page 4 of cover.

pope francis the last pope: Let Us Dream Pope Francis, Austen Ivereigh, 2022-03 The leader of the Catholic Church discusses what the COVID-19 crisis revealed about the cruelty and inequality of society, what it can teach about handling upheaval, and how to make the world safer, fairer, and healthier for all people. -- Provided by publisher.

pope francis the last pope: The Name of God Is Mercy Pope Francis, 2016-01-12 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • In his first book published as Pope, and in conjunction with the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, Pope Francis here invites all humanity to an intimate and personal dialogue on the subject closest to his heart—mercy—which has long been the cornerstone of his faith and is now the central teaching of his papacy. In this conversation with Vatican reporter Andrea Tornielli, Francis explains—through memories from his youth and moving anecdotes from his experiences as a pastor—why “mercy is the first attribute of God.” God “does not want anyone to be lost. His mercy is infinitely greater than our sins,” he writes. As well, the Church cannot close the door on anyone, Francis asserts—on the contrary, its duty is to go out into the world to find its way into the consciousness of people so that they can assume responsibility for, and move away from, the bad things they have done. The first Jesuit and the first South American to be elected Bishop of Rome, Pope Francis has traveled around the world spreading God’s message of mercy to the largest crowds in papal history. Clear and profound, *The Name of God Is Mercy* resonates with this desire to reach all those who are looking for meaning in life, a road to peace and reconciliation, and the healing of physical and spiritual wounds. It is being published in more than eighty countries around the world. “The name of God is mercy. There are no situations we cannot get out of, we are not condemned to sink into quicksand.”—Pope Francis Praise for *The Name of God Is Mercy* “Francis speaks succinctly—and with refreshing forthrightness. . . . He emphasizes moral sincerity over dogma, an understanding of the complexities of the world and individual experience over rigid doctrine. . . . The pope has an easy conversational style that moves effortlessly between folksy sayings and erudite allusions, between common-sense logic and impassioned philosophical insights.”—Michiko Kakutani, *The New York Times* “What makes his book most moving is the way in which this man, without disrespecting his own privacy or offering false bromides of modesty, opens the sacred space of his conscience to explain how he came to center his ministry, and now his papacy, around mercy.”—James Carroll, *The New Yorker* “As he has done throughout his papacy, Pope Francis shows in this book a compelling way to present God’s love anew to a skeptical world without denying the ancient teachings of faith. But now he is challenging the entire Church to trek a new way forward.”—*Time* “Francis enjoys sharing personal stories of God’s grace and mercy in the lives of parishioners from his native Argentina, people he has known and who have recognized themselves as sinners.”—*The Washington Post* “Powerful . . . Francis’s book signals a plea for a change of attitude on the part of the faithful and their pastors. . . . Bishops and priests will talk and quarrel over the text for months, even years to come. And that, perhaps, is what Francis intends.”—*Financial Times* “Deepens his calls for a more merciful Catholic Church . . . The question-and-answer book is told in simple, breezy language, with the pope referring to experiences and people in his own life.”—*Newsday* “Francis has offered his most detailed outline yet for the role of the Catholic church in the modern era.”—*National Catholic Reporter* Translated by Oonagh Stransky

pope francis the last pope: Pope Francis in His Own Words Pope Francis, 2013 Insights from the world’s newest spiritual leader on everything from forgiveness and faith to mercy and money, from prayer and parenting to tango and soccer Book jacket.

pope francis the last pope: Pope Francis and Interreligious Dialogue Harold Kasimow, Alan Race, 2018-10-29 This book engages thinkers from different religious and humanist traditions

in response to Pope Francis's pronouncements on interreligious dialogue. The contributors write from the perspectives of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Humanism. Each author elaborates on how the pope's openness to dialogue and invitation to practical collaboration on global concerns represents a significant achievement as the world faces an uncertain future. The theological tension within the Catholic double commitment to evangelization on the one hand, and dialogue on the other, remains unresolved for most writers, but this does not prevent them from praising the strong invitation to dialogue—especially with the focus on justice, peace, and ecological sustainability.

pope francis the last pope: *The Dictator Pope* Marcantonio Colonna, 2018-04-23 Marcantonio Colonna's *The Dictator Pope* has rocked Rome and the entire Catholic Church with its portrait of an authoritarian, manipulative, and politically partisan pontiff. Occupying a privileged perch in Rome during the tumultuous first years of Francis's pontificate, Colonna was privy to the shock, dismay, and even panic that the reckless new pope engendered in the Church's most loyal and judicious leaders. *The Dictator Pope* discloses that Father Mario Bergoglio (the future Pope Francis) was so unsuited for ecclesiastical leadership that the head of his own Jesuit order tried to prevent his appointment as a bishop in Argentina. Behind the benign smile of the people's pope Colonna reveals a ruthless autocrat aggressively asserting the powers of the papacy in pursuit of a radical agenda.

pope francis the last pope: *LIFE POPE FRANCIS* The Editors of LIFE, 2013-04-16 Pope Francis heralds a new era for the Catholic Church, and all of the pomp and circumstance — and hope — is captured in this commemorative LIFE volume, that features all of the best photography from coronation day in Rome. In addition, LIFE's editors present a visual and anecdotal history of the Vatican and of the papacy itself, a narrative with triumphs and tragedies, saints and scoundrels. The same team that created the bestselling *Pope John Paul II: a Tribute*, and the recent *Jesus: Who Do You Say that I Am?* has now brings forth this lavishly illustrated and right-up-to-date volume on Francis, the Church in our day and the Church down the centuries, beginning with St. Peter. This is the complete story, in words and pictures.

pope francis the last pope: *Happiness in This Life* Pope Francis, 2017-12-12 Pope Francis explores the idea of happiness and shows how we can bring more meaning and purpose to our lives. For Pope Francis, the appreciation of our everyday lives is a spiritual undertaking. Joy is a divine attribute and creating joy around us an essential part of faith. *Happiness in This Life* delivers, in warm, engaging language accessible to believers and nonbelievers alike, key lessons instructing readers on how to find love and happiness in a chaotic world. Along the way, Pope Francis discusses the sanctity of women's rights, the challenges that face today's young people, and why fighting discrimination is the essence of loving thy neighbour. He shares personal stories and anecdotes from his life and provides comforting messages of hope. The core ideas of his Holiness' papacy – mercy, support for marginalized people, and diplomacy – shine through. Full of inspiration and guidance for personal growth, this life-affirming book will help readers find the path towards spiritual well-being and living a happy life.

pope francis the last pope: *The Prophecy of Saint Malachy* Joseph Lumpkin, 2012 The events of 1978 saw the death of Pope Paul VI, the election and unexpected death of John Paul I, and finally the election of John Paul II. Three Popes in one year propelled the world like a runaway train toward the conclusion of a prophecy given by St. Malachy in 1139. The prophecy lists 112 Popes. The last Pope would take the seat of Saint Peter and the world would fall into anarchy. John Paul II was the 110th Pope. The Pope ruling the Holy See today is Benedict XVI, the 111th Pope, and according to the prophecy, the last Pope to rule an intact church and functioning world. The next Pope will not be the Vicar of Christ. He will be the enemy of the church, usurper of the throne and he will be called Peter of Rome.

pope francis the last pope: *A Pope Francis Lexicon* Cindy Wooden, Joshua J McElwee, 2017-12-27 *A Pope Francis Lexicon* is a collection of over fifty essays by an impressive set of insightful contributors from around the globe, each writing on a specific word that has become important in the ministry of Pope Francis. Writers such as Sr. Simone Campbell, Cardinal Blase

Cupich, Cardinal Óscar Rodríguez Maradiaga, Fr. James Martin, Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle, Anglican Archbishop Justin Welby, and Carolyn Woo explore the Pope's use of words like joy, clericalism, money, family, and tears. Together, they reveal what Francis's use of these words says about him, his ministry and priorities, and their significance to the church, the world, and the lives of individual Christians. The entire collection is introduced by a foreword by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians worldwide, and a preface by one of Francis's closest advisors, Cardinal Seán O'Malley. This is no set of encyclopedia entries. It's a reflective, inspiring, and often heartfelt book that offers engaging answers to the question "What is this surprising Pope up to?"

Themes and Contributors: Volume foreword Patriarch Bartholomew
 Volume preface Cardinal Seán O'Malley, OFM Cap Baptism Cardinal Donald Wuerl Benedict XVI
 David Gibson Capitalism Bishop Robert McElroy Careerism Cardinal Joseph Tobin, C.Ss.R. Church
 Elizabeth Stoker Bruenig Clerical abuse Francis Sullivan Clericalism Archbishop Paul-André
 Durocher Collegiality Archbishop Mark Coleridge Conscience Austen Ivereigh Creation Orthodox Fr.
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 Antonio G. Tagle Throwaway culture Sr. Pat Farrell, OSF Women Astrid Lobo Gajiwala Worldliness
 Mollie Wilson O'Reilly Youth Jordan Denari Duffner

pope francis the last pope: Sharing the Wisdom of Time Pope Francis and Friends, 2021-04-01
 Christmas Day 2021 sees the release of a Netflix series, *Stories of a Generation with Pope Francis*, based on this book. Pope Francis views elders as reservoirs of wisdom and historical memory and believes their insights will offer future generations much-needed understanding and direction. More than 250 people were interviewed and Loyola Press sent a collection of stories to the Vatican. These encompassed universal themes of love, loss, survival, hope, peace in the face of unimaginable tragedy, and above all, faith. Pope Francis received every story, prayed over them, and responded with sensitivity and grace to 31 of the stories and the issues they raise. In his Preface, Pope Francis lays out his reasons for this collection of wisdom stories and the movement he hopes it inspires. He also contributes as a fellow elder, offering a story from his own life at the start of each chapter. And in his own wise and compassionate way, he serves as a spiritual shepherd, commenting on dozens of heartfelt stories.

pope francis the last pope: Pope Francis Mario I. Aguilar, 2021-12-30 This volume is about Pope Francis, the diplomat. In his eight years of pontificate, Pope Francis as a peacemaker has propagated the ideas of human and divine cooperation to build a global human fraternity through his journeys outside the Vatican. This book discusses his endeavours to connect and develop a common peaceful international order between countries, faith communities, and even antagonistic communities through a peaceful journey of human beings. The book analyses his speeches, and meetings as a diplomat of peace, including his visits to Cuba and the United States, and his mediations for peace in Colombia, Myanmar, Kenya, Egypt, Turkey, Jordan, Jerusalem, the Central African Republic, Sri Lanka, and Bangladesh. It discusses the role of Pope Francis as mediator in different circumstances through his own writings, letters, and Vatican documents; his encounters with world leaders; as well as his contributions to a universal understanding on inter-faith dialogue,

climate change and the environment, and human migration and the refugee crisis. The volume also sheds light on his ideas on a post-pandemic just social order, as summarised in his 2020 encyclical. A definitive work on the diplomacy and the travels of Pope Francis, this volume will be of great interest to scholars and researchers of religious studies, peace and conflict studies, ethics and philosophy, and political science and international relations. It will be of great interest to the general reader as well.

pope francis the last pope: Church, Interrupted John Cornwell, 2021-03-09 Church, Interrupted: Havoc & Hope: The Tender Revolt of Pope Francis is a revealing portrait of Pope Francis's hopeful yet controversial efforts to recreate the Catholic Church to become, once again, a welcoming place of empathy, love, and inclusiveness. Bestselling author, Vanity Fair contributor, and papal biographer John Cornwell tells the gripping insider story of Pope Francis's bid to bring renewal and hope to a crisis-plagued Church and the world at large. With unique insights and original reporting, Cornwell reveals how Francis has persistently provoked and disrupted his stubbornly unchanging Church, purging clerical corruption and reforming entrenched institutions, while calling for action against global poverty, climate change, and racism. Cornwell argues that despite fierce opposition from traditionalist clergy and right-wing media, the pope has radically widened Catholic moral priorities, calling for mercy and compassion over rigid dogmatism. Francis, according to Cornwell, has transformed the Vatican from being a top-down centralized authority to being a spiritual service for a global Church. He has welcomed the rejected, abused, and disheartened; reached out to people of other faiths and those of none; and proved a providential spiritual leader for future generations. Highly acclaimed author John Cornwell's riveting account of the hopeful—and contentious—efforts undertaken by Pope Francis to rebuild the Catholic Church. • Well researched and brilliantly written, readers, scholars, and fans of John Cornwell will want to read his most controversial and compelling work yet. • More than a third of America's 74 million Catholics said they were contemplating departure in 2018. It is estimated that over the past twenty years, the Catholic Church has been losing \$2.5 billion dollars annually in revenues, legal fees, and damages due to clerical abuse cases. The decline in church attendance, marriages, and vocations to the priesthood and sisterhood tell a story of major decline and disillusion. Cornwell showcases Pope Francis's way forward, a hopeful message that gives reinvigorated reasons to stay with the church and help be the change the new generation would like to see. • For readers within and outside Catholicism fascinated by the future and restructuring of the church, this will be a book they want to read again and again as the church continues to change and grow.

pope francis the last pope: Wounded Shepherd Austen Ivereigh, 2019-11-05 “Essential reading for historians of [Francis’s] papacy in years to come, from the New York Times–bestselling author of *The Reformer* and *Let us Dream*.” —The Tablet Austen Ivereigh’s colorful, clear-eyed portrait of Pope Francis takes us inside the Vatican’s urgent debate over the future of the church in *Wounded Shepherd* This deeply contextual biography centers on the tensions generated by the pope’s attempt to turn the Church away from power and tradition and outwards to engage humanity with God’s mercy. In turbulent meetings and on global trips, history’s first Latin-American pope has attempted to reshape the Church to evangelize the contemporary age. At the same time, he has stirred other leaders’ deep-seated fear that the Church is capitulating to modernity. Facing rebellions over his allowing sacraments for the divorced and his attempt to create a more “ecological” Catholicism, as well as a firestorm of criticism for the Church’s record on sexual abuse, Francis emerges as a leader of remarkable vision and skill with a relentless spiritual focus—a leader who is at peace in the turmoil surrounding him. With entertaining anecdotes, insider accounts, and expert analysis, Ivereigh’s journey through the key episodes of Francis’s reform in Rome and the wider Church brings into sharp focus the frustrations and fury, as well as the joys and successes, of one of the most remarkable pontificates of the contemporary age. “A thoughtful, essential book.” —Booklist, starred review “Highly recommended.” —Library Journal, starred review “A richly detailed and engaging portrait of Francis as pope.” —Commonweal “A revelation.” —Publishers Weekly “A detailed study packed with insider tidbits.” —Kirkus Reviews

pope francis the last pope: Pope Francis Eduardo J. Echeverria, 2019-05-15 Professor Echeverria does a thorough job of drawing from the pre-papal writings of Jorge Mario Bergoglio and the man's current papal writings, talks, and sermons to discover and document the continuity in thought Francis has with the councils. Echeverria compares Francis's discourse with that of his papal predecessors in the era since Vatican II. He draws heavily on the documents of Vatican II and the theology of doctrinal development stemming from the First Vatican Council and embraced by Vatican II. Not left out is the modern ecumenical movement from both the Reformed and Catholic side.

pope francis the last pope: *From the Depths of Our Hearts* Pope Benedict XVI, Robert Sarah, 2020-03-12 The priesthood is going through a dark time, according to Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Robert Cardinal Sarah. Wounded by the revelation of so many scandals, disconcerted by the constant questioning of their consecrated celibacy, many priests are tempted by the thought of giving up and abandoning everything. In this book, the pope emeritus and the prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments give their brother priests, and the whole Church, a message of hope. They honestly address the spiritual challenges faced by priests today, while pointing to deeper conversion to Jesus Christ as the key to faithful and fruitful priestly ministry and genuine reform. Benedict XVI and Cardinal Sarah fraternally offer these reflections to the people of God and, of course, in a spirit of filial obedience, to Pope Francis, who has said, I think that celibacy is a gift for the Church. . . . I don't agree with allowing optional celibacy, no. Responding to calls for refashioning the priesthood, including proposals from participants in the Amazonian Synod, two wise, spiritually astute pastors explain the importance of priestly celibacy for the good of the whole Church. Drawing on Vatican II, they present celibacy as not just a mere precept of ecclesiastical law, but as a sharing in Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross and his identity as Bridegroom of the Church. of his collaboration with Benedict XVI in writing *From the Depths of Our Hearts*.

pope francis the last pope: *The Great Reformer* Austen Ivereigh, 2014-11-25 A biography of Pope Francis that describes how this revolutionary thinker will use the power of his position to challenge and redirect one of the world's most formidable religions An expansive and deeply contextual work, at its heart *The Great Reformer* is about the intersection of faith and politics--the tension between the pope's innovative vision for the Church and the obstacles he faces in an institution still strongly defined by its conservative past. Based on extensive interviews in Argentina and years of study of the Catholic Church, Ivereigh tells the story not only of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, the remarkable man whose background and total commitment to the discernment of God's will transformed him into Pope Francis--but the story of why the Catholic Church chose him as their leader. With the Francis Revolution just beginning, this biography will provide never-before-explained context on how one man's ambitious program began--and how it will likely end--through an investigation of Francis's youth growing up in Buenos Aires and the dramatic events during the Perón era that shaped his beliefs; his ongoing conflicts and disillusionment with the ensuing doctrines of an authoritarian and militaristic government in the 1970s; how his Jesuit training in Argentina and Chile gave him a unique understanding and advocacy for a Church of the Poor; and his rise from Cardinal to the papacy.

pope francis the last pope: *Catechism of the Catholic Church* U.S. Catholic Church, 2012-11-28 Over 3 million copies sold! Essential reading for Catholics of all walks of life. Here it is - the first new Catechism of the Catholic Church in more than 400 years, a complete summary of what Catholics around the world commonly believe. The Catechism draws on the Bible, the Mass, the Sacraments, Church tradition and teaching, and the lives of saints. It comes with a complete index, footnotes and cross-references for a fuller understanding of every subject. The word catechism means instruction - this book will serve as the standard for all future catechisms. Using the tradition of explaining what the Church believes (the Creed), what she celebrates (the Sacraments), what she lives (the Commandments), and what she prays (the Lord's Prayer), the Catechism of the Catholic Church offers challenges for believers and answers for all those interested in learning about the

mystery of the Catholic faith. The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a positive, coherent and contemporary map for our spiritual journey toward transformation.

pope francis the last pope: Prophecy and the Last Pope Sarah Skye, DACE. SKYE ALLEN (SARAH.), 2013-04-15 Was Benedict XVI the last Pope? Who will follow him, and what marks the true beginning of End Times? In this book, you'll discover the eerily accurate prophecies of Saint Malachy. You'll see what Nostradamus and Mother Shipton said, along with many other mystics who predicted the final days... and your future. We'll share the two very different ways to read Malachy's 112th prediction (the Petrus Romanus one), and why punctuation makes all the difference if you're counting Popes after Benedict XVI. We'll explain why Comet ISON may signal when the antichrist will appear, and what political headlines -- especially which dynamic Papal duo -- should make you nervous. No matter who follows Benedict XVI, we'll tell you who to watch even more closely. The real power -- and Petrus Romanus -- may be someone you least expect. (After all, the Wizard of Oz was usually concealed behind the curtain.) But -- we promise -- we won't make everything sound like a conspiracy that will end very badly. We'll point to the silver linings in many prophecies about the end times. Sure, you'll discover the truth about the 666 tiara, and what numerology might tell us about the last Pope... and the darkness that may follow him. You'll also learn fascinating trivia about the first Borgia Pope, the legend of the White Pope and the Black Pope, and how Benedict's resignation may fulfill a very unlikely prophecy. (If we're right, this could get very weird.) If you're looking for well-researched history with a dash of flippant humor, and a last Pope explanation that doesn't take itself too seriously... this is the book you want! Discover the prophecies. See how they fit together. Learn what to watch for in world headlines. Read this book and be ready for what's ahead!

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