

Pope

From Page 1

only Benedict, John Paul I in 1978 and Pius XII in 1939 were faster.

Francis' election elated Latin Americans, who number 40 percent of the world's Catholics but have long been underrepresented in the church leadership. On Wednesday, drivers honked their horns in the streets of Buenos Aires and television announcers screamed with elation at the news.

"It's a huge gift for all of Latin America. We waited 20 centuries. It was worth the wait," said Jose Antonio Cruz, a Franciscan friar at the St. Francis of Assisi church in the colonial Old San Juan district in Puerto Rico. "Everyone from Canada down to Patagonia is going to feel blessed."

The new pontiff brings a common touch. The son of middle-class Italian immigrants, he denied himself the luxuries that previous cardinals in Buenos Aires enjoyed. He lived in a simple apartment, often rode the bus to work, cooked his own meals and regularly visited slums that ring Argentina's capital.

He considers social outreach, rather than doctrinal battles, to be the essential business of the church.

"As a champion of the poor and the most vulnerable among us, he carries forth the message of love and compassion that has inspired the world for more than 2,000 years — that in each other, we see the face of God," President Barack Obama said in a statement.

As the 266th pope, Francis inherits a Catholic church in turmoil, beset by the clerical sex abuse scandal, internal divisions and dwindling numbers in parts of the world where Christianity had been strong for centuries.

While Latin America still boasts the largest bloc of Catholics on a single continent, it has faced competition from aggressive evangelical churches that have chipped away at strongholds like Brazil, where the number of Catholics has dropped from 74 percent of the population in 2000 to 65 percent today.

Francis is sure to bring the church closer to the poverty-racked region, while also introducing the world to a very different type of pope, whose first words were a simple, "Brothers and sisters, good evening."

He asked for prayers for himself, and for Benedict, whose stunning resignation paved the way for his election.

"I want you to bless me," Francis said in his first appearance from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, asking the faithful to bow their heads in silent prayer.

Francis spoke by phone with Benedict, who has been living at the papal retreat in Castel Gandolfo, and told cardinals he plans to visit the retired pontiff on Friday, according to U.S. Cardinal Timothy Dolan. The visit was significant because Benedict's resignation has raised concerns about potential power conflicts emerging from the peculiar situation of having a reigning pope and a retired one.

Earlier Wednesday, shouts of joy went up from the throng huddled under a sea of umbrellas when plumes of white smoke poured out of the copper chimney atop the Sistine Chapel a few minutes past 7 p.m. "Habemus Papam!" — "We have a pope!" — they chanted as the bells pealed in St. Peter's Basilica and churches across Rome.

After what seemed like an endless wait of more than an hour, they cheered again when the doors to the loggia opened and a



Pope Francis

Roman Catholic pontiff

Early life

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio, Dec. 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, to an Italian immigrant family

Education Master's degree in chemistry, University of Buenos Aires; advanced degree in philosophy

Highlights of religious life

1969 Ordained a priest; member of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits)

1973-1979 Served as a religious superior (leader) within the Society

1980-1986 Rector of the Philosophical and Theological Faculty of San Miguel, the seminary where he studied

1992-1997 Auxiliary bishop of Buenos Aires

1998-2001 Archbishop of Buenos Aires

2001-2013 Cardinal-Archbishop of Buenos Aires; held several administrative positions in the Roman Curia; known for his simple lifestyle, commitment to social justice and doctrinal conservatism

March 13, 2013 Elected pope, the first from the Americas

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Source: The Vatican, MCT Photo Service

cardinal stepped out and revealed the identity of the new pontiff, using his Latin name, then announced he would be called Francis.

In choosing to call himself Francis, the new pope was associating himself with the much-loved Italian saint from Assisi known as a symbol of peace, poverty and simplicity. St. Francis was born to a wealthy family but renounced his wealth and founded the Franciscan order of friars; he wandered about the countryside preaching to the people in very simple language.

He was so famed for his sanctity that he was canonized just two years after his death in 1226.

St. Francis Xavier is another important namesake. One of the 16th-century founders of the Jesuit order, Francis Xavier was a legendary missionary who spread the faith as far as India and Japan — giving the new pope's name further resonance in an age when the church is struggling to maintain its numbers.

In choosing Francis, the cardinals clearly decided that they didn't need a vigorous, young pope who would reign for decades but rather a seasoned, popular and humble pastor who would draw followers to the faith and help rebuild a church stained by scandal. Catholics are still buzzing over his speech last year accusing fellow church officials of hypocrisy for forgetting that Jesus Christ bathed lepers and ate with prostitutes.

In a lifetime of teaching and leading priests in Latin America, Bergoglio has also shown a keen political sensibility as well as the kind of self-effacing humility that fellow cardinals value highly, according to his official biographer, Sergio Rubín.

Bergoglio's legacy includes his efforts to repair the reputation of a church that lost many followers by failing to openly challenge Argentina's murderous 1976-83 dictatorship. His own record as the head of the Jesuit order in Argentina at the time has been tarnished as well.

Many Argentines remain angry over the church's acknowledged failure to openly confront a regime that was kidnapping and killing thousands of people as it sought to eliminate "subversive elements" in society. It's one reason why more than two-thirds of Argentines describe themselves as Catholic, but fewer than 10 percent regularly attend Mass.

Under Bergoglio's leadership, Argentina's bishops issued a collective apology in October 2012 for the church's failures to protect its flock. But the statement blamed the era's violence in roughly equal measure on both the junta and its enemies.

"Bergoglio has been very critical of human rights violations during the dictatorship, but he has always also criticized the leftist guerrillas; he doesn't forget that side," Rubín said.

Bergoglio's own role in the so-called Dirty War has been the subject of controversy.

At least two court cases directly involved Bergoglio. One examined the torture of two of his Jesuit priests who were kidnapped in 1976 from the slums where they advocated liberation theology. One accused Bergoglio of effectively handing him over to the junta.

Both men were freed after Bergoglio took extraordinary, behind-the-scenes action to save them — including persuading dictator Jorge Videla's family priest to call in sick so that Bergoglio himself could say Mass in the junta leader's home, where he privately appealed for mercy. His intervention likely saved their lives, but Bergoglio never shared the details until Rubín interviewed him for a 2010 biography.

Rubín said failing to challenge the dictators was simply pragmatic at a time when so many people were getting killed, and attributed Bergoglio's later reluctance to share his side of the story as a reflection of his humility.

Francis will celebrate his first Mass as pope in the Sistine Chapel on Thursday, and will be installed officially on Tuesday, according to the Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi.

One of his first foreign trips is expected to be World Youth Day in Rio de Janeiro in July, an event that will likely energize the continent given their native son will be presiding.

Lombardi, also a Jesuit, said he was particularly stunned by the election given that Jesuits typically shun positions of authority in the church, instead offering their work in service to those in power.

But Lombardi said that in accepting the election, Francis must have felt it "a strong call to service," an antidote to all those who speculated that the papacy was about a search for power.

New York Cardinal Dolan gave an inside glimpse into the drama of the conclave, saying that when the tally reached the necessary 77 votes to make Bergoglio pope, the cardinals erupted in applause. And when he accepted the momentous responsibility thrust upon him, "there wasn't a dry eye in the place," the American cardinal recounted.

After the princes of the church had congratulated the new pope one by one, other Vatican officials wanted to do the same, but Francis preferred to go outside and greet the throngs of faithful. "Maybe we should go to the balcony first," Dolan recalled the pope as saying.

Later, the new pope shunned a special car and security detail provided to transport him to the Vatican hotel. He decided to stay with the cardinals.

"I'll just go with the guys on the bus," Dolan quoted him as saying.

Jobs

From Page 1

an impressive private company supporting the best of American private enterprise."

Eagle Creek provides consulting and technical expertise, focusing on customer relationship management, information management and applications development.

The company's mission is to help its clients increase quality and efficiencies while managing price and risk in software development, deployment and support.

Daugaard noted that Vermillion came to mind shortly after state economic officials began formal discussions with Behrendt.

"When you are in the business of attracting industry to your state, you find out what they want and try to fill those needs," the governor said.

Daugaard noted that after he and other state officials had initial conversations with Behrendt about his desire to expand Eagle Creek in South Dakota, it became apparent that Vermillion could fill the company's needs.

"Vermillion has lots of high-caliber students at the University of South Dakota ... and if there is opportunity for them right here in Vermillion, how much better will it be for many of those students who can seize that opportunity? This is going to be something quite unique," he said.

JOBS RETURNING "ONSHORE"

Behrendt noted that for the past couple decades, the United States has been shipping IT services offshore.

"Initially this was done for cost, but corporate America today has recognized that there are underlying issues," he said. "Since 2009, we have seen these services begin to come back to the United States. That's because of the U.S.-based employees, who have a better understanding of the workforce, the requirements and a more knowledgeable understanding of U.S. business practices."

Behrendt said the U.S. has not been able to keep up with the demand for IT services. The creation of the Information Technology Consultant Academy on the USD campus will help meet that demand, he said.

"We will be better able to prepare a skilled workforce that will stand the challenges of the future," Behrendt said. "I often get asked 'Why South Dakota?' It truly is the best place in the United States to build a technology center. South Dakota is a state that understands business and wants to have a partnership with the business community. In addition to a workforce that's unparalleled, it's cities like Vermillion that will make this happen. It's the heartbeat of the technology services going forward."

It is envisioned that local employees of Eagle Creek will go to work in a new building in Vermillion, constructed by the Vermillion Chamber of Commerce and Development Company (VCDC) and leased to the firm.

In comments to reporters following the press conference, Daugaard noted that the state may issue a low-interest REDI Fund loan to the VCDC to help pay for the new building's construction.

Eagle Creek's services are used by a variety of companies, from healthcare, insurance and financial services, to communications, technology and life sciences.

A key component is the Information Technology Consultant

Academy, located on the USD campus.

Abbott noted that university students will be given the opportunity to begin their careers in information technology in Vermillion, with an internship and first job at the information center the city of Vermillion plans to build for Eagle Creek.

"The challenges of today's job market call for new skills and approaches. Our mission as a university should be to prepare students to succeed in an increasingly high-tech workforce. We applaud and are proud to partner with Eagle Creek on this innovative project. The Information Technology Consultant Academy will put students on a career path for success."

"There's a lot to be excited about, for the city of Vermillion, for the University of South Dakota and for the state of South Dakota," Behrendt said. "We're very excited about what the coming years are going to bring us."

The governor said the state often provides funding to industries that locate in South Dakota to help them train their staffs.

"We are providing some training dollars in the more conventional sense to Eagle Creek, but one of the things that's quite unique is, those training dollars will, in part, be delivered through tuition and fees paid to the University of South Dakota for students who want to take the software classes," Daugaard said. "It will enable them to have the skills that are needed by companies like Eagle Creek, and are specifically tailored for Eagle Creek."

"We're not only helping Eagle Creek," the governor said. "We're using those economic development dollars to help the University of South Dakota and the students who come here."





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