Pope Francis



Pope Francis (1936-2025) served as Pope from 2013-2025 and was the first Jesuit Pope and the First Latin American Pope. He chose his name to honor Saint Francis of Assisi.

***Lumen Fidei* (The Light of Faith, 2013)**
Pope Francis' first encyclical, completed in 2013, focuses on the centrality of faith, the relationship between reason and faith, and the Church's role in transmitting the Gospel. It was largely drafted by Pope Benedict XVI and completed by Francis, marking a theological foundation for his papacy.

***Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel, 2013)**
An apostolic exhortation urging the Church to renew evangelization, overcome complacency, and embrace missionary zeal in today's world. It was issued alongside *Lumen Fidei* as part of Francis' initial pastoral and theological program.

***Misericordiae Vultus* (The Face of Mercy, 2015)**
A papal bull inaugurating the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy. It calls the faithful to contemplate the mystery of mercy and to live in a spirit of compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

***Laudato si'* (Praise Be to You: On Care for Our Common Home, 2015)**
A landmark encyclical on environmental stewardship, linking ecological crisis to social injustice. It became one of the most influential Catholic documents in decades, shaping global climate discourse and inspiring the Paris Agreement.

***Fratelli Tutti* (On Fraternity and Social Friendship, 2020)**
An encyclical addressing global social, political, and religious challenges, promoting solidarity, fraternity, and concern for the poor. It draws on the example of St. Francis of Assisi and calls for a world united in human dignity

Reflection Questions

The Joy of the Gospel calls everyone to become Missionary Disciples. How have I answered the call to invite others into the active living of the Gospel of Christ?

Laudato Si challenges everyone to care for the creation given us by our loving God. How am I working to pass on a planet enriched, rather than depleted, of God's blessing?

Fratelli Tutti calls on all the faithful to live in solidarity with the poor and disenfranchised. In what ways have I worked not only to "give" to the poor, but to unite with them?