



Family and Faith Connection

Let us be Lights of Hope

The Year of Mercy

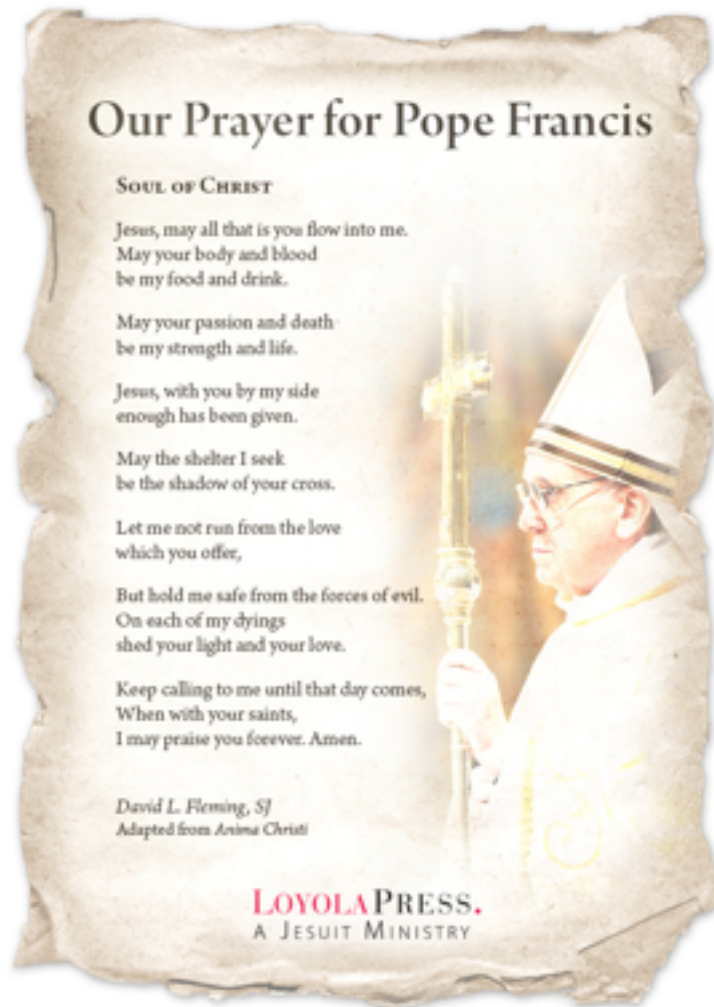
[Interactive Map: Pope Francis's Apostolic Visit to the US](#)

Pope Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He felt the call of God and was ordained a Jesuit priest on December 13, 1969. A Jesuit means that he belongs to the order known as the Society of Jesus, founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola. Jesuits are known for traveling the world to spread the word of God and being missionaries who serve the poor and fight injustice.

In Rome, Pope Francis, or Francisco, is known as *il Papa*, which means Father. The pope is the Bishop of Rome and the leader of the worldwide Catholic Church. He lives in Vatican City, which is a municipality inside the city of Rome. In his time as pope, Francis has shared a vision of Church that emphasizes hope, mercy, and care for each other. Pope Francis is the first Jesuit pope.

Journey to the United States

The presence of Pope Francis in the United States in September was a joyful time for millions of Catholics and people of good will. Visiting Washington, DC, New York City, and Philadelphia, the papal visit includes a meeting with President Obama, a Mass of Canonization for [Junípero Serra](#), and an address to Congress. In New York, Pope Francis will address the U.N., visit the 9/11 Memorial, and then head to Philadelphia to celebrate Mass after the [World Meeting of Families](#).



Our Prayer for Pope Francis

SOUL OF CHRIST

Jesus, may all that is you flow into me.
May your body and blood
be my food and drink.

May your passion and death
be my strength and life.

Jesus, with you by my side
enough has been given.

May the shelter I seek
be the shadow of your cross.

Let me not run from the love
which you offer,

But hold me safe from the forces of evil.
On each of my dyings
shed your light and your love.

Keep calling to me until that day comes,
When with your saints,
I may praise you forever. Amen.

David L. Fleming, SJ
Adapted from *Anima Christi*

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