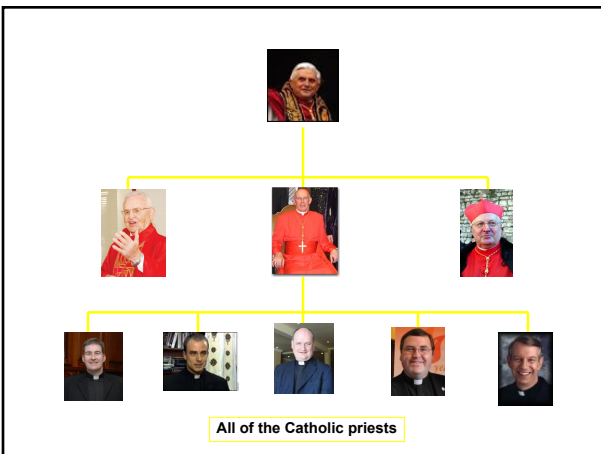


How will a new Pope be elected?

Clergy

In the Christian church, the *clergy* is the entire class of religious officials, from priests to pastors to bishops and beyond.

Clergy is the word for all of the clerics combined, and is paired with the *laity*, which are all the people in the church who aren't in the clergy.



Cardinal

The word Cardinal means 'of prime importance'; 'chief'; 'principal'.

It is the second highest position in the Church and can only be confirmed by the Pope.

Also refers to the colour red - which is why the cardinals all wear red!

Pontificate

Pontificate comes from the French word *pontiff*, another word for the Pope, the leader of the Roman Catholic Church.

As a verb (pronounced pon-TIF-i-kate), it meant "to perform the functions of the Pope or other high official in the Church."

Conclave

A private or secret meeting is a *conclave*.

In Catholicism, a *conclave* is specifically a meeting of Roman Catholic cardinals who are locked in a room in seclusion when they need to choose a new pope. The word *conclave* comes from the Latin and originally meant "a locked room."

Conclave

The term is suitable since the cardinals are locked inside the [Sistine Chapel](#) in the [Apostolic Palace](#) during the voting process.

A conclave begins no earlier than 15 days and no later than 20 days after the pope's death.

Cardinals participating in conclave stay in St. Martha's House, a hospice inside the Vatican that has 130 rooms. Arrangements are made to ensure that the cardinals are not approached as they are transported between St. Martha's and the Sistine Chapel.

Cardinal Dean

The Cardinal Dean presides (rules) over the college of Cardinals

Rules of Election

The maximum number of electors from the College of Cardinals is 120. The college is currently composed of 194 cardinals.

Any cardinal who turns 80 before the day the Papacy is vacated, either by death or resignation, cannot take part in the election. Currently, 135 cardinals are eligible to vote under this rule (15 of those 135 would be disqualified from the vote because the limit is 120).

Rules of Election

A two-thirds-plus-one majority is required to elect a pope.

Two ballots each are held in the morning and afternoon, for a total of four per day.

If a new pope is not selected after 12 to 13 days, the cardinals may choose to impose a majority vote, which would allow selection of a new pope by a simple majority.

Rules of Election

Each rectangular ballot is inscribed at the top with the words *Eligo in Summum Pontificem*, meaning "I elect as supreme pontiff." Below these words, each cardinal writes down the name of the person he chooses as the pope. The vote is done in secret with paper and pen. The voting cardinal then folds the ballot twice, holds it in the air, and carries it to the chapel's altar. He then says, "I call as my witness Christ the Lord who will be my judge, that my vote is given to the one who before God I think should be elected."

Voting Procedure

Here are the steps for the **vote-tallying procedure**:

- The first Scrutineer takes a ballot, notes the name on it, and passes it to the next Scrutineer.
- The second Scrutineer notes the name and passes it to the third Scrutineer.
- The third Scrutineer reads aloud the name on the ballot, pierces the ballot with a needle through the word *Eligo* at the top of the ballot, and slides the ballot onto a string of thread.
- Each elector notes the name that is read.

Voting Procedure

- Once all ballots are read, the Scrutineers write down the official count on a separate sheet of paper.
- The third Scrutineer ties the ends of the thread on which the ballots are placed in a knot to preserve the vote.
- The ballots are placed in a receptacle.

After each vote, the ballots and any notes regarding them are burned. Smoke from the burning of the ballots appears over the Vatican Palace. If no pope has been chosen, a chemical is applied to the ballots in order to create **black smoke** when burned. **White smoke** signals that a pope has been elected.

The New Pope

Once the new pope is elected, he meets with the Cardinal Deacon, the Secretary of the College of Cardinals, the Cardinal Dean, and the Master of Papal Liturgical Celebrations. The Cardinal Dean asks the elected pope two questions:

1. Do you accept your canonical election as Supreme Pontiff?
2. By what name do you wish to be called?

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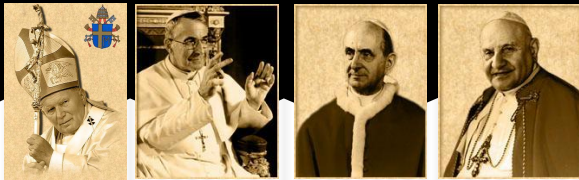
Electing a New Pope



Who is the Pope?

The Pope is a central figure in World Religion. He is:
the leader of the Roman Catholic Faith across the world
the Bishop of Rome
the descendant of St. Peter.....

Who were the recent Popes?



John Paul II

John Paul I

Paul VI

John XXIII

Where does the Pope live?

The Pope lives in the Vatican City in Rome. This is the smallest independent state in the World. Although it is in the Italian capital city of Rome, it is independent of Italy and the Pope has overall rule of this city.



The flag of the Vatican City

Population: 836 approx

Size: 0.44 square kilometre

Currency: Euro







Cardinal Electors

There are 120 cardinals under age 80 and eligible to vote in a papal election.

Electors by region



Countries with more than one elector

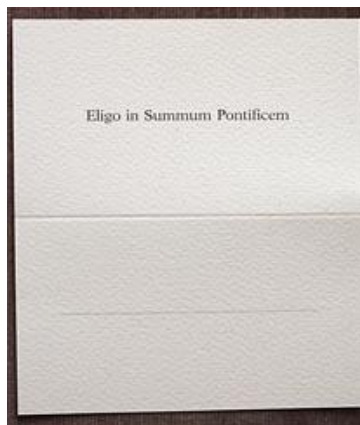
ITALY	28	INDIA	5	CANADA	3
U.S.	11	FRANCE	4	ARGENTINA	2
GERMANY	6	MEXICO	4	NIGERIA	2
BRAZIL	6	POLAND	4	PORTUGAL	2
SPAIN	5				

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Electing a new Pope

To elect a new Pope, there are several stages.

1. All of the Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church meet in Rome (unless they are over 80). There can be a maximum of 120 Cardinals involved in the vote.
2. The Cardinals all take part in a public mass to ask for guidance from the Holy Spirit.
3. The Senior Cardinal issues the order *Extra Omnes* and all not involved in the election process have to leave.
4. The doors are then sealed shut and the CONCLAVE starts.



This is the voting slip used to elect a new Pope.

Each Cardinal will try to disguise their writing when they print the name of their choice.

They fold the card in half making it one inch wide.

The words on the top mean "I elect as supreme pontiff".



All votes cast in the election are secret and must be destroyed immediately.

They are burnt in the small stove that is located in the Sistine chapel.

The colour of the smoke that comes from the chimney is what people watch for.



If the smoke from the chimney is black, another vote is needed.



If the smoke from the chimney is white, a new Pope has been elected. The great bells of St. Peter will also ring.

How It All Happens...

<http://vaticaninsider.lastampa.it/en/the-vatican/come-si-elegge-il-papa/>

Interactive Quiz

<http://www.funtrivia.com/newflash/trivia.cfm?qid=50185>
