

The Election of a New Pope



Compiled by the Office for Catechesis & Evangelization, Diocese of La Crosse, WI. Photos provided by Catholic News Service (CNS)

Let Us Pray for the Election of a New Pope



St. Peter holds the keys, signifying what Christ said to him: “I will give to you the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven.”

(See Matthew 16:19, CCC 553, 1444)

This statue of St. Peter is in front of St. Peter’s Basilica, and featured in the next three slides where the conclave is being held.



The colonnade represents the arms of
“Mother Church” reaching out in love
to Her children.





The Cardinals from around the world arrived in Rome for the conclave which begins on May 7th.



The Cardinal
Electors will
gather at
St. Peter's to
pray the Rosary
and will begin
the Conclave
with Holy Mass.

The Chair of St. Peter in
St. Peter's Basilica



The Pope is the
successor of
Saint Peter,
upon whom
Jesus Christ
built His Church.
(Matthew 16:17-19)

The chair,
or CATHEDRA,
is a symbol of a
bishop's authority.
This large chair
represents the chair of
St. Peter.





All over the world, all Catholic bishops are part of an unbroken lineage that goes back to the time of the Apostles, which is only found in the one Church that Jesus founded.

Apostolic Succession is the foundation for our unity as a Church.



Balloting for the new Pope takes place in the Sistine Chapel. The ceiling in the Sistine Chapel was painted by Michelangelo from 1508 to 1512. He also painted “The Last Judgment” fresco above the altar from 1535 to 1541.

Conclave means
“with a key.”

All Cardinals under the age of 80 will process into the Sistine Chapel to elect the new pope.

The Chapel is a locked area, protected by the Swiss Guard, to ensure the confidentiality of the process.

Cardinal-electors do not send or receive mail; nor use a telephone, television or radio; or read newspapers.

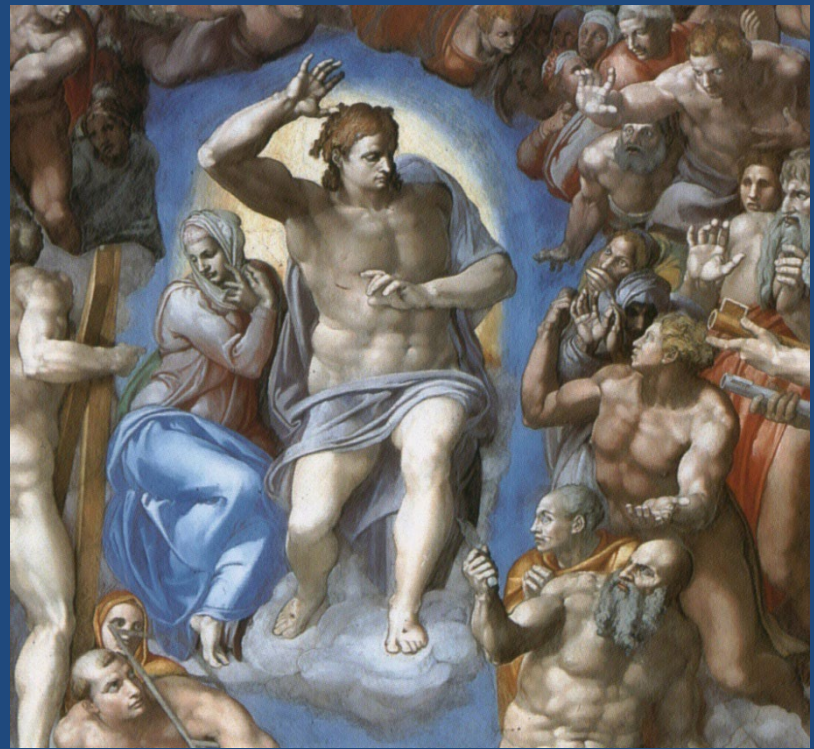
The Cardinals are in seclusion, in prayer, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.





The Cardinal-Electors will enter the Sistine Chapel, chanting “Come Holy Spirit,” invoking divine help with their decision.

One round of voting is expected on May 7th
On each subsequent day, two votes are taken in the morning and two votes in the afternoon until a successful vote.



The Election of a New Pope

By secret ballot, a candidate must receive a two-thirds majority of the vote in order to be elected.

When the newly elected Cardinal gives assent to his election as Supreme Pontiff, the Cardinal Dean asks, “By what name do you wish to be called?”

The new Pope will announce his name.

Another title for the Holy Father is “the servant of the servants of God,” for authority is given to the pope not for his personal advantage, but for the benefit of those confided to his care.

- ❑ A chimney is installed on the roof of the Sistine Chapel. A stove in the conclave is set to burn ballots each morning and afternoon.



- ❑ If balloting is not successful, the smoke burns black with the help of an added chemical.

If balloting is successful, a chemical is added to produce white smoke – the signal to the world that the Church has a new Pope!

The “Room of Tears”

- The new Pope will dress in the “Room of Tears” — perhaps so-called because of the emotion of the moment. When he returns to the Chapel a Gospel passage connected to the Petrine ministry is read, a brief prayer is given, and the Cardinals process, one-by-one to the new Pontiff, congratulating him and promising their obedience. The Pope and the Cardinals sing the Te Deum together.





“Habemus Papam!”

After the new Pope changes into the white papal vestments and then greets each of the Cardinals, the senior cardinal deacon will appear on the central balcony of St. Peter's and announce

Habemus Papam – we have a Pope!

The new Pope will then appear to greet the world and give all a blessing.

Prayer for the Election of a New Pope

O God, Eternal Shepherd,
Who govern Your flock
with unfailing care, grant
in Your boundless fatherly
love a pastor for Your
Church who will please
You by his holiness and to
us show watchful care.
Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, Your Son, who lives
and reigns with You in the
unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen. (Roman Missal, Collect)

Window in St. Peter's – symbol of God the Holy Spirit

