

## Teen Meditation - April, 2013



We have a new Pope! You probably already knew that, but it's an exciting time for our Church.

There has been a lot reported about the meetings, then the conclave and how the cardinals chose Pope Francis I. Our bishop, Francis Cardinal George, spoke of going to Mass, praying individually and as a group for the Holy Spirit to guide them in choosing the next man to become pope.

### **Pope Francis I is very different than our previous popes.**

Rather than live in a large house, have a car, driver and cook while he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, he chose a small apartment, public transportation and prepared his own meals. He used what little money he had to help the poor. He spent time with them, saying Mass and cooking for them, in addition to his duties as bishop. He has always felt God calling him to help those less fortunate.



**Upon becoming pope, his first request was that  
WE PRAY FOR HIM!**

**We think of the pope as the holy man to lead us  
and he needs our prayers?!**

**He said he can't do his job without the support and prayers of  
all the people in the Church. He then promised to pray for us too.**

He trusted God to show him the way in life. We are supposed to do the same. How do we know what God wants of us?

What if we don't want to do what we feel Him guiding us to do? Where do we get the strength to follow God's plan?

**We start by praying,  
just as the cardinals did.**

**Then we listen to God's voice in our heart  
and in our lives.**

**God has given us the sacraments  
to strengthen us for this life.**

He welcomed us into the Church with **Baptism** which also washed away our original sin. He feeds us with the Eucharist, **Holy Communion**. He gives us the gifts of the Holy Spirit- wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, fear of the Lord- through **Confirmation**.

When we choose to do anything against God, He forgives us in **Reconciliation**. If we are sick in any way, we can be anointed for healing of mind, body and spirit; it is the sacrament of the **Anointing of the Sick**

When we are ready to choose a vocation, men can be ordained whereby they choose to serve God by serving others through the **Priesthood**. Women and men who choose marriage are joined in the sacrament of **Matrimony**. They vow to be faithful, serve God and each other, welcome and raise children in their family.

**During this Year of Faith, pray for the guidance of  
the Holy Spirit to lead you to God's path for your life.  
Use the sacraments often to give you strength for the journey.**

**Look to our Pope Francis I as a role model  
for following God's call in your life.  
Continue to pray for him as he is for you.**

Art used with permission [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope\\_Francis](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pope_Francis)  
April 12<sup>th</sup> 1013, St. Mary of the Annunciation, Eucharistic Adoration Ministry,  
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