

Person of the Year – Premiere Edition

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Poorbes

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"Without a solution to the
problems of the poor,
We cannot resolve the
problems of the world."

— POPE FRANCIS

GOODBYE FRANCIS

A GLOBAL ADVOCATE FOR THOSE
LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY



The Pope Who Chose Service Over Self

In a world of \$2 million Solid Gold OVO x Air Jordans for extremely wealthy feet, Francis chose the worn sandals of the extreme poor.

Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Francis grew up witnessing the raw face of inequality — not from a helicopter view, but from the crowded streets where children played barefoot and mothers prayed for bread. Long before the world called him “Pope,” he belonged to the people. He walked with them, wept with them, and fought for them.

When he chose the name “Francis,” after St. Francis of Assisi — the patron saint of poverty, humility, and peace — it was not a branding decision. It was a battle cry. In a Vatican weighed down by centuries of opulence, Francis stood as —not so— quiet rebellion: a pope who lived in a simple guesthouse instead of a palace, who carried his own briefcase, who paid his own hotel bills. Small acts that shook a gilded institution to its foundations.

Francis preached a radical idea

“The measure of the greatness of a society is found in the way it treats those most in need... those who have nothing apart from their poverty”



Francis was a champion for migrants whose poverty and joblessness left them no alternative but to seek new lands to obtain jobs and feed their families:

"Migrants and refugees are not pawns on the chessboard of humanity. They are children, women, and men who leave or who are forced to leave their homes for various reasons, who share a legitimate desire for knowing and having, but above all for being, more."

"There is no poverty worse than that which takes away work and the dignity of work."

Francis' vision of justice was encompassing.

He dared to open conversations inside an institution long hardened by dogma. He advocated for greater roles for women. He called for compassion towards the LGBTQ+ community, famously saying, "Who am I to judge?"

These weren't mere symbolic gestures. They were part of the same belief that all human dignity must be recognized, not negotiated — that inclusion is not charity but justice.

Francis understood that the same systems that trample the poor also silence the different. He knew that poverty isn't just about money. It's about economic and social exclusion.

A Life of Purpose

Perhaps what brought out millions of people to watch Francis's funeral was their appreciation for one who dedicated himself to *a life of purpose*.

Francis never shied away from working with the poor. And he never asked anything in return. For him, true humility and true service was a sacrifice:

“Embrace with tender affection the whole of humanity, especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important.”

In the end, Francis leaves us not with monuments, not with treasures, **but with a choice:**

A choice between a world of endless accumulation or a world of endless service.

Between systems that grind people down and communities that lift people up.

Between faith in markets and faith in humanity: **“If money and material things become the center of our lives, they seize us and make us slaves.”**

He showed us — not with pompous declarations, but with quiet acts of courage — that dignity is not measured in net worth, but in how we treat the least among us.

“On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas!”

Goodbye, Francis — the pope who dared to walk barefoot through the ruins of a broken world, and still bless it with hope

