

SCHOOL PRAYER FOR THE NEW POPE

Although prepared especially with schools in mind, the following prayer service may also be adapted and used by other groups or individuals.

Principal's message:

The whole Church is rejoicing at the news of the election of Pope Francis as our new Holy Father.

Until his election, Pope Francis was Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, S.J., and he was Archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina. *(A few sentences could be added here about his life and as a tribute to him and his new ministry.)* Today we join with the Universal Church to pray for our new Shepherd, that the Lord may strengthen and protect him as he begins this sacred ministry.

Principal: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Principal: With trust and confidence in God's merciful love, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: Our Father...

Principal:

O God, you never cease to gather to yourself, from east to west,
a people called to be a living sacrifice of praise,
a people set apart to proclaim the Gospel of the Lord
by the witness of their lives.

You have chosen your servant Francis
in succession to the Apostle Peter
as shepherd of your people.
Strengthen and protect him, O Lord,
so that, by word and example,
he may lead all of us to a deeper commitment

to be a light for the world and a leaven for all humanity,
until all creation is transformed into the splendour of the Kingdom of God.

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.

All: Amen.

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