

IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER

The Jesuit priest Jorge Mario Bergoglio in an undated photograph from the Jesuit General Curia in Rome. He was ordained in 1969.

JORGE BERGOGLIO**GOOD OL'
JORGE****10 THINGS YOU PROBABLY DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT POPE FRANCIS**

"FRANCIS, HE IS NORMAL!" GERMAN CARDINAL WALTER KASPER, GOOD-HUMOREDLY CALLED "KASPER THE FRIENDLY CARDINAL," HAS SAID. MAYBE NOT NORMAL FOR A MAN OF THE POPE'S STATURE, BUT DEFINITELY HUMAN—ONE WITH US IN THESE CHANGING TIMES. IN HIS BIOGRAPHY *EL PAPA FRANCISCO*, AUTHORS SERGIO RUBIN AND FRANCESCA AMBROGETTI UNVEIL JORGE BERGOGLIO, THE MAN WHO LATER BECAME THE TRANSFIXING POPE FRANCIS.

HE BEGAN WORKING AT 13. The Jesuit vow of obedience seemed to manifest itself in Jorge in his youth: At the behest of his father, he spent his summer vacations working even if he was distraught by the idea. He cleaned the offices of the accounting firm where his father worked, and was later given an administrative job. While he was attending an industrial college (with a specialization in food chemistry), he worked at a laboratory of chemical composition analysis. He worked from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., had lunch for an hour, then headed to his classes which lasted until 8 p.m. "I am so grateful," he says, "that my father sent me to work. Work was one of the best things I did in life. In the laboratory, I learned the seriousness of work and the good and bad thing of every human task."

HE LIKES ITALIAN NEOREALIST FILMS AND THOSE STARRING TITA MERELLO. He considers *Los Isleros* (1951), by Lucas Demare, a masterpiece. The most recent film that was special to him was *La Fiesta de Babette* (1987). He had fun watching *Esperando la Carroza* (1985), but he no longer goes to the movies.

HE IS NOT MUCH OF A SLEEPER. He does take a 40-minute siesta, but that's perhaps because he usually gets only about five hours of sleep at night. He wakes up without an alarm at 4 a.m. He stays awake past the midnight mass and prayer. It's one of the many sacrifices he does.

HE READS AND LISTENS TO MUSIC.

He loves Hölderlin's poetry. Other literary works include: *The Betrothed*, by Alessandro Manzoni (which he has read four times); *The Divine Comedy*, by Dante Alighieri; and those of Fyodor Dostoevsky and Leopoldo Marechal. Jorge Luis Borges? "Borges goes without saying," the Argentine says matter of factly. He listens to classical music on the radio. His favorite musical composition is Beethoven's "Leonore Overture No. 3" under the baton of Wilhelm Furtwängler. He enjoys the tango. "It's something that comes from within me. I know enough of its two styles." He says, "My favorites in the first are the d'Arienzo Orchestra, Carlos Gardel, Julio Sosa, and Ada Falcón. In the second, I really admire Astor Piazzolla and Amelita Baltar. I can also dance it, but I prefer the milonga."

HE SPEAKS ITALIAN, FRENCH, AND GERMAN FLUENTLY.

He understands Piedmontese, the language in northwest Italy, where his relatives were from before they moved to Argentina to avoid the economic hardships and the remaining tensions of post-World War II. His father did not use the language with him since he did not want to appear nostalgic of the family's hometown. "He preferred to look ahead," he says. However, he and his grandparents had "the privilege of participating in the language of their memories." He therefore calls Piedmontese the sound of his childhood.

HE GREW UP LISTENING TO

OPERAS. His parents didn't allow him and his brothers to miss any of those starring Anna Magnani and Aldo Fabrizi. "Every Saturday at 2 p.m., we sat around our set and listened to operas. My mom kept us attentive, especially in the developments, by explaining to us what was happening. Being with them and enjoying art was beautiful." She also taught him how to cook; the Bergoglio children had to learn, since she was paralyzed for a while after her fifth delivery. Does he cook well? "Well enough. I never killed anyone," he says, chuckling.

HE LOVED A LADY: HIS THEN

GIRLFRIEND. "She was part of the group of friends I went out and danced with. I ended my dating life when I discovered my religious calling."

HE WAS CALLED AT 17.

It was September 21, and it was Student's Day in Argentina, a no-school day for students in all levels. Like many teenagers who were bound for the beach or the park, Jorge was also about to go out with his friends. A practicing Catholic, he began that day by dropping by his parish, the Church of San José, to pray. He met a priest to whom he confessed, because he seemed to be extraordinarily spiritual. His faith was stirred, his soul clamored for one thing: that he had to be a priest; it's what he wanted. "I don't know what happened to me in that confession, but it was strange," he says. He calls it a "religious experience" because he encountered someone that seemed to have been waiting for him all this time. "You seek God, but He seeks you first, finds you first. He springs on you." Jorge experienced moments of solitude when he didn't tell anyone about it for a while. When he did, his mom was anguished while his dad, having some religious roots, was happy. He entered the seminary of the Jesuits at 21, as he was attracted by the Jesuits' missionary tasks.

HE WOULD SAVE HIS BREVIARY—A LITURGICAL PRAYER BOOK—AND HIS PLANNER FIRST, IF THERE WAS A FIRE.

His planner has all his addresses, phone numbers, and all his commitments. He says of the prayer book, "it's the first thing I open in the morning and the last thing I close before going to bed." He also keeps his grandmother's will and her letters to him between its pages.

HE THINKS THE GREATEST VIRTUES ARE GOODNESS, LOVE (WHICH ENTAILS MAKING SPACE FOR OTHER PEOPLE IN ONE'S LIFE), AND MEEKNESS.

"I always ask God to give me a gentle heart," he says. "And while it's logical to think that for me the gravest sin is hatred, what disgusts me the most is pride. When I find myself thinking all about myself, I snap out of it, feeling ashamed. I then ask God for forgiveness." The Pope having some self-centered thoughts may be unimaginable but, as he puts it, "No one is free from falling into these things."