

Sainthood Saturday: Saint Pope John XXIII

Who is he?

Angelo Roncalli was 76 when he was elected as Pope John XXIII. One of the first things he did when elected pope was to hold the Second Vatican Council. This is one of the most defining moments in our church history. At it, bishops from all over the world discussed how to bridge our Catholic, universal faith and the modern world. Today, the documents written are the basis of our church today.

Some of the changes were huge. Instead of the Mass proclaimed in Latin, a language only a few knew, Vatican II decided that the Mass should be proclaimed in the language the congregation spoke. Vatican II realized that our faith only becomes visible to the world when we are actively participating in it. Parishioners stepped up to become ministers during the Mass, like reading or distributing Holy Communion. Music was written with words people understood and could connect to. And these are only a few of the hundreds of changes!

Because of Pope John XXIII's dedication to once again make our Catholic faith universal, Pope Francis declared him a saint in 2014, even though a second miracle is not attributed to him. His contributions were *that* important to our Catholic faith.



How is a pope elected?

The cardinals are the ones to elect the next pope. When they get together, they offer names and discuss. If they feel ready to vote on one of the cardinals, they take a vote. If two-thirds of the votes agree, then that cardinal is chosen to become the next pope. Otherwise, more discussion and voting follows.

Outside, all of us keep an eye on the chimney. When the next pope is chosen, the ballots are burned with a chemical that causes the smoke to turn white. When we see the white smoke, we know that a decision is made.

Want to learn more?

Pope John XXIII:

http://www.vatican.va/content/john-xxiii/en/biography/documents/hf_j-xxiii_bio_16071997_biography.html

Vatican II: <https://www.carroll.edu/mission-catholic-identity/second-vatican-council>

Vatican II Documents: http://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index.htm

Electing a pope:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/scripture-and-tradition/church-leadership/10-things-to-know-about-electing-the-pope/>

"I want to throw open the windows of the Church so that we can see out and the people can see in."