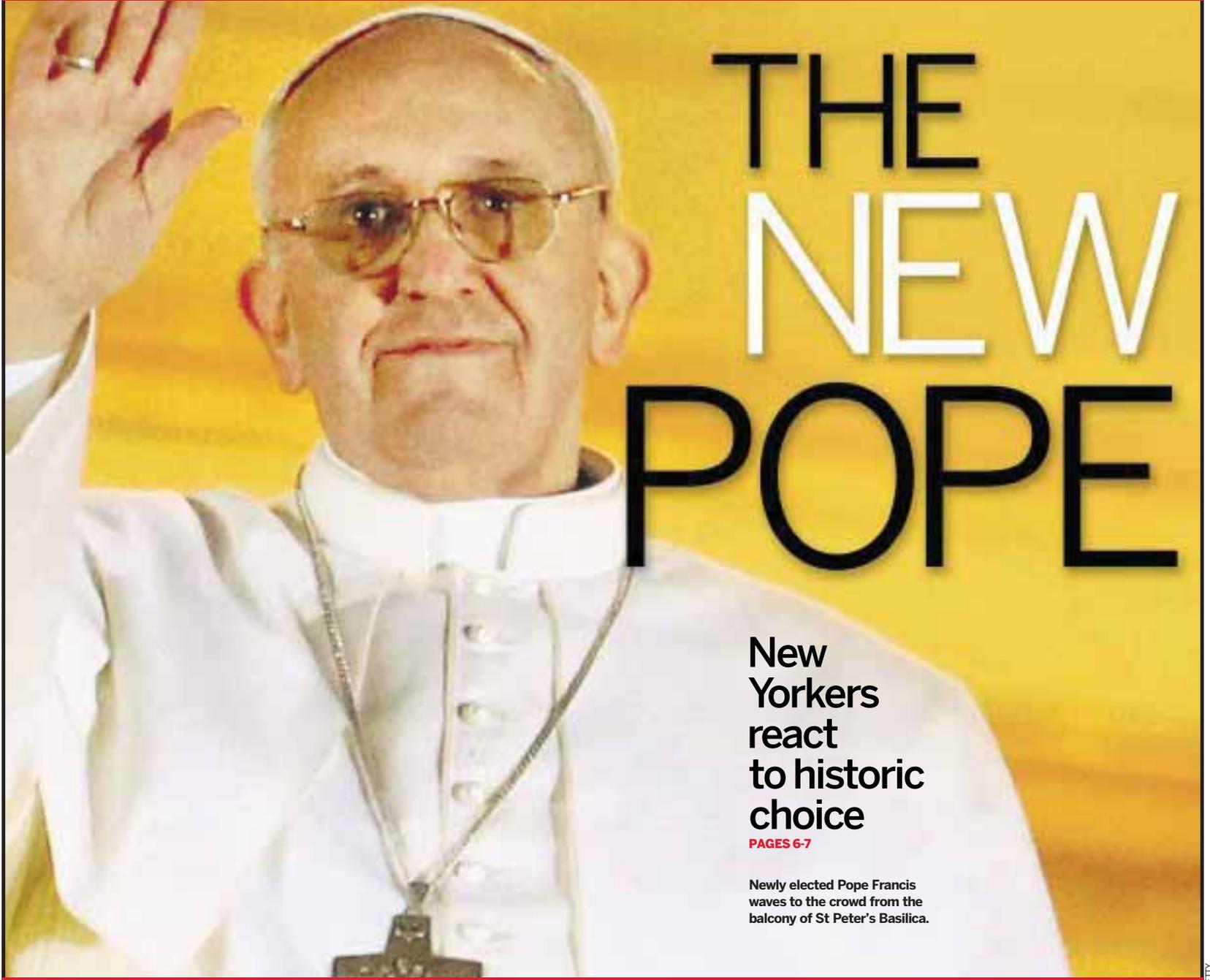


MANHATTAN'S HIGHEST DAILY CIRCULATION NEWSPAPER



THE NEW POPE

New
Yorkers
react
to historic
choice

PAGES 6-7

Newly elected Pope Francis waves to the crowd from the balcony of St Peter's Basilica.

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WEATHER



TODAY
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Partly cloudy



TOMORROW
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Partly cloudy



SATURDAY
HI 41° LO 30°
Showers

HOT LIST



Jazz at Forty Four

Jazz pianist and composer Theo Hill will perform at the Royalton's Forty Four, the hotel's bar and restaurant at 44 W. 44th St., tonight at 8 p.m.

Basketball

Join the Brooklyn Nets and their coaches for a night of bowling and food at Brooklyn Bowl, 61 Wythe Ave., tonight at 6 p.m. Visit NMA.com/Nets for tickets, \$225 for general admission, which includes food and drinks.



Amy Schumer live

AXS TV presents Gotham Comedy Live hosted by Amy Schumer tonight at the Gotham Comedy Club, 208 W. 23 St., at 9 p.m. Gothamcomedyclub.com, tix are \$15.



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Latinos praise papal choice

BY SHEILA ANNE FEENEY
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Ya era hora! The selection of Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the 266th pope has not only suffused the Latino Catholic community with pride, but ignited enthusiasm and instilled hope in a congregation in need of reassurance that they are valued and loved.

"I didn't really feel a connection to the last pope and haven't really been feeling a connection to the church. With all the scandals, you get disappointed," said Luciana Sartorio, 27, a medical assistant from Ozone Park who is of Argentine descent.

"Now I can't wait to go to church this Sunday: I'm excited! They finally picked someone from this side of the world!"

While some may discount Bergoglio's Latino heritage — both of his parents are Italian — "at least he was born and raised in Buenos Aires," and was raised speaking Spanish, Sartorio pointed out.

The selection of Bergoglio "will renew the faith of many Latino New Yorkers," predicted Enrique Sanchez, owner of the Buenos Aires Tango Steak House in Forest Hills.

Latinos have wanted 'this for decades.'

— Victor Velarde, professor of philosophical theology at Seton Hall University

The news could strengthen Catholicism throughout this hemisphere, where it has been increasingly losing ground to other branches of Christianity, said Sanchez,

who pronounced the choice of Bergoglio a triumph "for all the Americas" — North, South and Central.

"All the Latinos here are extremely happy. They've been waiting for this for decades," said Victor Velarde, professor of philosophical theology at Seton Hall University.

Forty percent of all Catholics are Hispanic, said Velarde, and while Bergoglio is "very traditional," and close to Benedict XVI theologically, he "is beloved in Argentina," and cares deeply about the poor.



Shelly Guadalupe cried yesterday at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan as the new pope was named.

FRANCIS'



Pope Francis

- Born Jorge Bergoglio on Dec. 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires to Italian immigrants.
- Earned a master's degree in chemistry before deciding to become a priest.
- Ordained as a priest in 1969, and ascended to become the archbishop of Buenos Aires in 1998.
- Pope John Paul II elevated him to a cardinal in 2001.
- In 2005, he came in second to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger during the 2005 Conclave, according to various reports.

(IVAN PEREIRA)



Newly elected Pope Francis I appeared on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City yesterday.

CHARLES ECKERT

GETTY

NEW ERA

Warm welcome from NYers for Argentine-born Bergoglio

BY TIM HERRERA
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Hailed by New York Catholics, Argentine Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio yesterday became the first non-European pope in more than 1,000 years, ascending to the papacy less than two weeks after his predecessor Benedict XVI retired.

Speaking to tens of thousands at St. Peter's Square, Bergoglio, 76, who will be known as Pope Francis, said the church had to go to "the end of the world" to find a new bishop of Rome.

"Pray for me," Francis said.

For some New Yorkers, Francis' ascension was an enormous blessing.

"I just believe this is bringing so many people to God, especially the youth," said Sonia LaFont, 48, who took to St. Patrick's Cathedral to celebrate. "I was born and raised a Catholic, but I'm going to start coming back more often. I'm going to come here, God put me in a good place today."

Francis, the first Jesuit to lead the church, was a surprise choice, as there was speculation the church would choose a younger, more charismatic pope to re-

invigorate its image and connect with younger Catholics, experts said.

"It's very surprising," said Robert Somerville, professor of religion and history and Columbia University.

"A lot of people were saying they needed candidates who were younger and more vigorous," Somerville said, "and the degree to which he can cooperate with the curialists to clean up some of the things in the church that need to be cleaned up is an important question."

Somerville added: "But come on, he's almost 80 years old. ... If Benedict lives a long time, is it inconceivable that we could have two retired popes?"

Chris Vogt, chair of the theology department at St. John's University, said the selection may show shifts in the makeup of the church.

"It's a sign of the shifting demographics of the Catholic Church worldwide," he said. "He wants to reach out to people, so certainly it could be something that is a new connection."

Indeed, those shifting demographics are especially significant in New York City, where ethnicities of the Catholic Church have



Pope Benedict XVI and Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio in 2007.

dramatically changed over the years, experts said.

"The Catholic population in New York is no longer dominated by the Irish and the Italians," said Charles Camosy, assistant professor of Christian ethics at Fordham University.

"The immigrant population who have been here for several generations now — especially with white Catholics falling away from the church or becoming secular — the real energy behind the church in New York and the world more broadly has moved to people who are now connected to the global south."

Cardinal Timothy Dolan of New York said the selection was a major landmark.

"[The choice] marks a great milestone in our

church," Dolan said. "Pope Francis I stands as the figure of unity for all Catholics wherever they reside."

Remmy Lara, 59, who lives in Jamaica but was born just north of Argentina in Bolivia, also celebrated Francis at St. Patrick's.

"This is a good message. He understands," Lara said. "Family is brought together by the church. This pope, he has a family mission."

The Rev. Msgr. Robert Ritchie, rector of St. Patrick's, said, "I know that God has chosen a Holy Father. ... He comes from one of the furthest corners of the world ... He is aware of the world's problems."

Ritchie added: "God has given us this very holy man. God chose him for us."

(WITH ANNA SANDERS, DAN RIVOLI)

Pope Francis' speech

Brothers and sisters, good evening."

You know that the duty of the conclave was to give a bishop to Rome. It seems that my brother cardinals went almost to the end of the world to get him. But here we are."

I thank you for this welcome by the diocesan community of Rome to its bishop. Thank you."

First of all, I would like to say a prayer for our bishop emeritus, Benedict XVI. Let us all pray together for him, let us all pray together for him so that the Lord may bless him and that the Madonna may protect him."

PAPAL VIEWPOINTS

Pope Francis has remained private with most of his opinions but very open on three topics.

• GAY MARRIAGE: He issued this statement after gay marriage was legalized in Argentina in 2010 and was active in the campaigns to strike it down:

"Let us not be naive: This is not simply a political struggle, but it is an attempt to destroy God's plan," he wrote in a statement, according to Reuters.

• ABORTION: In 2006, he criticized an Argentine proposal that would legalize abortion, according to the Catholic News Service. Fran-

cis urged parishioners to oppose abortion in a homily in 2009 and reiterated the Vatican's stance that life begins at conception.

• POVERTY: Francis has spoken out against the growing economic inequality throughout Latin America, telling bishops there in 2007 that "the unjust distribution of goods persists, creating a situation of social sin that cries out to Heaven," according to National Catholic Reporter.

(IVAN PEREIRA)

WORDS OF PRAISE



As the first pope from the Americas, his selection also speaks to the strength and vitality of a region that is increasingly shaping our world."
President Barack Obama



As successor to Peter, our first pope, Pope Francis I stands as the figure of unity for all Catholics wherever they reside."
Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York



Overjoyed for Catholics ... and hopeful that Pope Francis will help foster peace and spirituality across the globe."
Sen. Charles Schumer



Pope Francis I is no stranger to us.... He always had an open ear for our concerns."
Ronald Lauder, president of the World Jewish Congress