



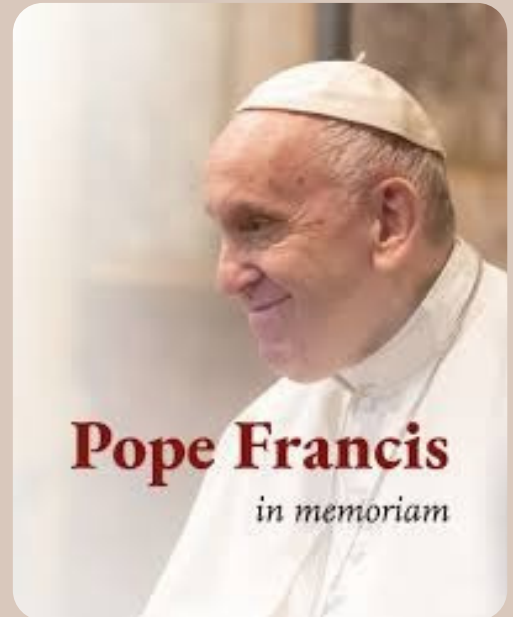
# A Living Memorial for a Jesuit Pope

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The first Jesuit Pope, a man shaped by the Spiritual Exercises, marked by discernment, interior freedom, and the desire to find God in all things. This page is a living memorial to Pope Francis, a space to gather, remember, and reflect on a pontificate that changed the Church.

On 13 March 2013, the conclave elected a son of Ignatius of Loyola to the Chair of Saint Peter, a ministry defined not only by its historic firsts, but by the Ignatian charism that shaped it: discernment, interior freedom, and the desire to find God in all things. Throughout his pontificate, Pope Francis invited the world to look toward the peripheries. He modelled a Church not as a fortress but as a field hospital where the wounds of humanity are met with mercy. That vision is rooted in the Ignatian call to go where the need is greatest.

On the first anniversary of his death, we remember our Pope, our brother in the Society of Jesus, with gratitude. Pope Francis brought the spirit of the Jesuits to the heart of the universal Church. As the first Jesuit to serve in the Chair of St Peter, his pontificate was marked by discernment, closeness to those on the margins, and a constant desire to seek and find God in all things. His leadership was defined not only by its historic character, but by a distinctively Jesuit way of proceeding: attentiveness to the movements of the Spirit, a preference for simplicity, a call to the peripheries, care for our common home, and a vision of the Church as synodal and missionary, close to the wounds of the world.



## Testimonies and Reflections



### **Thinking with the Church: Pope Francis and the Jesuit Vocation**

**Arturo Sosa, SJ | Superior General of the Society of Jesus**

**A year after the death of Pope Francis, the Church continues to feel his impact with gratitude. His life reflected faithful Jesuit vocation within the Society of Jesus, rooted in the spirituality of Ignatius of Loyola. He accepted the papacy with humility, seeing leadership as service, not ambition. He urged Jesuits to remain grounded in prayer, discernment, and attentiveness to the Spirit, warning against ambition and rigidity. Francis chose mission over prestige, closeness to the margins over power. His legacy calls us to live with freedom, humility, and courage in serving Christ's mission.**



## **Pope Francis – and my synodal journey with him**

**Nathalie Becquart, XMCJ | Under-Secretary of the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops**

**On 13 March 2013, the election of Pope Francis coincided with the birth of my niece, which I came to see as a new beginning for the Church. His humble “Habemus Papam” revealed a synodal vision of “Bishop and People.” At World Youth Day 2013, his call to young people inspired active mission. His exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* and later work on synodality shaped my vocation. Through encounters and service, I witnessed his leadership rooted in listening, humility, and inclusion. His death brought sorrow and gratitude, leaving a Church committed to walking together without fear.**