DID YOU KNOW?

When Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio was elected Pope on March 13, 2013, he chose the name Francis in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

MEET ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Francis was born in 1181 in Assisi, Italy. His family was very rich. Growing up, Francis liked to play and have fun.

One day, Francis met a poor man who asked for some money. Francis didn’t give him anything, but later felt sad and went to find him. When he did, Francis gave the man everything he had. God helped Francis realize that caring for others is one of the best ways to find happiness. Francis learned to share what he had and teach people about God’s love. Francis gave away everything he had — even all of his clothes!

Francis traveled throughout Italy, telling everyone to follow God’s way, and about God’s love. He lived a simple life filled with joy. Other men began to follow Francis and that is how the Franciscan Order of Priests and Brothers began.

The Franciscans help the poor and sick and spread the word of God. They are missionaries!

Francis was named a saint of the Catholic Church in 1228. His Feast Day is October 4. Our faith teaches us that St. Francis had the power to work miracles. He loved all creatures. Birds and animals happily obeyed his commands!

This is why St. Francis is the Patron Saint of animals.