

A year in the life of The People's Pope

DK publishes intimate portrait of the daily life of Pope Francis, featuring never-before-seen photos from longtime Vatican photographer

Pope Francis: A Photographic Portrait of The People's Pope by Father Michael Collins

This September, 75 million Catholics in the U.S.—nearly a quarter of the nation's population—will welcome The People's Pope, Pope Francis, for his first papal visit. While two million are expected to attend the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, one of Pope Francis's four scheduled U.S. stops, the large majority of America's faithful will look on through media.

A forthcoming book from DK will publish just in time to commemorate Pope Francis's trip to the United States. Narrated by religious scholar and church historian, Father Michael Collins, *Pope Francis: A Photographic Portrait of the People's Pope* (August 1, 2015) introduces readers to the first Jesuit pope and the first-ever pope from the Americas, a figure who was largely unknown to most of the world's 1.2 billion Catholics before he was elected in 2013. Photographic essays throughout the book reveal Pope Francis's most personal side yet and provides an rare look at papal life.

Exclusive photos captured by Vatican photography studio Fotografia Felici include never-before-seen candid shots by Rodolfo Felici, the fifth generation photographer to carry on the family tradition that has been in business for more than 150 years.

"Pope Francis really comes alive when he is with people," says Father Collins, author of 10 books on the Vatican and the Catholic Church. "He has a wonderfully expressive face and these images capture different aspects of his lively personality."

Together with intimate stories by Father Collins, this special collection reveals an up-close, personal look at the daily life of Pope Francis, beginning with his path from Buenos Aires to Rome and throughout an entire calendar year of religious holidays, events and papal visits. Each chapter reminds readers how Pope Francis is unlike the pontiffs before him: warm, down-to-earth, unpredictable, and just as at home in soup kitchens and homeless camps as he is in the Vatican, where he lives in the "guest quarters" instead of the regal main building.

Felici has donated the entire proceeds of the book's royalties to the Office of Papal Charities, an organization entrusted by Pope Francis himself with caring for the poor of the city of Rome.

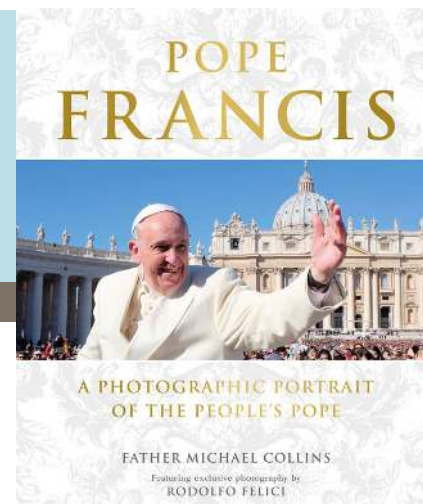
U.S. Papal Visit Highlights

Sept. 22—Pope Francis arrives in Washington, D.C.

Sept. 23—Visits the White House and addresses Congress at the U.S. Capitol

Sept. 25—Addresses the United Nations in New York

Sept. 26-27—Attends the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia



BOOK DETAILS

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By Father Michael Collins

Photography by Rodolfo Felici

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Available for Interview

Father Michael Collins (www.fathermichaelcollins.com) has taught at a number of universities, including the American University of Rome, John Cabot University, and Duquesne University, Rome Campus, and he currently serves at St. Mary's Church in Dublin. Father Collins is a former Vatican guide and has authored many books, including DK's *The Vatican*, writes regular columns for *The Catholic Times* and the *Irish Times*, and has been featured on CBS News' "60 Minutes."

Talking Points

- **Pope Francis's Journey to the Papacy.** Pope Francis is the first Jesuit and Latin American pope and a true pope of the people. He lived through turbulent times both in the Church following the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) and political upheaval during the Dirty War in Argentina (1976-83). These events had a profound effect and, through careful discernment, he became a warmer and more tolerant person, traits he exudes daily in his position as pope.
- **Church Reform and Life inside the Vatican.** Father Collins can discuss how Pope Francis initiated reform in the Curia which governs the Church.
- **The People's Pope:** Discuss Pope Francis' popularity and how he fascinates Christians for his perceived openness to numerous types of people from disenfranchised to nobility. Father Collins can discuss the ways Pope Francis has brought personal experience of frailty to his new office.
- **Controversy:** Father Collins can remark about Pope Francis's penchant for off-the-cuff remarks that have provoked amusement but also caused offence.
- **The Year of the Family:** Father Collins can discuss the importance of the family unit to the pope and the church and why there is a whole year and international conference devoted to it.

About the Photographer

Rodolfo Felici is a fifth generation photographer at Fotografia Felici (www.fotografiafelici.com), the family-run photographic studio founded by Giuseppe Felici in Rome in 1863. A trained architect, he has worked as a photographer in the Vatican since 1999, together with his father, Giuseppe, and other members of the family. Fotografia Felici is one of two studios that shares the privilege of photographing Papal events in the Vatican. With a history of more than 150 years, it is one of the oldest remaining studios run by the same family.

About the Publisher

DK (www.dk.com) is the best selling and award winning publisher known for informing, entertaining, and educating global audiences through beautifully designed content. DK also publishes the Eyewitness series for children and Eyewitness Travel Guides, BradyGames, Alpha Books, and Rough Guides are also available from DK, a division of Penguin Random House.



OTHER BOOKS BY FATHER COLLINS

*The Vatican: Secrets and
Treasures of the Holy City*

Francis: Bishop of Rome

Good Pope John

*The Illustrated Bible
Story by Story*

*John Paul II: The Path
to Sainthood*

*Pope Benedict XVI:
The First Five Years*

*The Fisherman's Net:
The Influence of the
Papacy on History*

The Story of Christianity

Q&A with Father Michael Collins

Q: This fall readers will be treated to several new publications about Pope Francis from annotated biographies to critical analyses on his religious views and papal reforms. What can readers expect from DK's forthcoming book, *Pope Francis: A Photographic Portrait of the People's Pope*?

Father Michael Collins: The DK book on Pope Francis brings the readers close up to the Pope through the photographer's lens. There is a great narrative. We begin with a short biography before bringing the reader into the room in the Apostolic Palace on February 11, 2013 when Pope Benedict announced to the Cardinals his intention to abdicate. We follow Cardinal Jose Mario Bergoglio from his arrival in Rome to participate in the conclave through to his election and then on into events of the first three years of his pontificate. These photographs are taken in the imposing surroundings of the Vatican or during his many trips abroad.

Q: *Pope Francis: A Photographic Portrait of the People's Pope* is a series of pictorial essays that offers a rare look at life behind the scenes with His Holiness Pope Francis, capturing both significant and informal events of papal life. Of all the moments spotlighted in the book, which one would you select as your personal favorite?

FMC: I like the photographs taken on the island of Lampedusa when Pope Francis flew from Rome to visit migrants from Africa. He originally wanted to fly with three priests on a scheduled flight. The Italian authorities would not allow that and insisted on flying on a small plane to bring the Pope to the island.

Q: As a church historian, you have written extensively about the Holy City in DK's *The Vatican*, which offered a uniquely informative insider's view to the great treasures and daily life at the world's smallest nation and the spiritual center of the Catholic Church. Can you briefly speak to what a typical day is like for Pope Francis when he is at the Vatican? How will Pope Francis and his advisors prepare for a trip to the United States this fall?

FMC: Pope Francis rises before 5:00 am each morning for prayer and celebrates Mass in the chapel in the residence which he shares with other priests and bishops. Visitors are invited to attend the Mass on four mornings each week. After shared breakfast in the refectory, the Pope spends a couple of hours dealing with administrative desk work after which he holds audiences which last until lunch at 1:30 pm. This meal is taken with his companions in the refectory. In the afternoon the Pope receives a number of visitors and continues paperwork. The evening meal is taken in the refectory and the Pope sits where he finds a placing. There are a number of meetings in preparation for events such as papal visits abroad which require careful planning. Then there are regular papal liturgies, either in St. Peter's at the Vatican or in Roman parishes.

Q: *Pope Francis: A Photographic Portrait of the People's Pope* includes inspiring photographs from one of Pope Francis' official photographers, Rodolfo Felici, who works with the Felici Studios, a family-run photographic studio founded by Giuseppe Felici in Rome in 1863. In what ways do these images succeed in providing readers with an exceptionally intimate portrait of the pope?

FMC: Almost all of these images are candid. The Pope is by now oblivious to the constant presence of photographers. Rodolfo told me that the Pope really comes alive when he is with people. He loves meeting people. Sometimes he banters with them, others he encourages them. Pope Francis has a wonderfully expressive face and these images capture different aspects of his lively personality.



Rodolfo Felici

"Pope Francis is energized by people. His thumbs-up is an expression of his expansive and extroverted personality."

Excerpted from *Pope Francis: A Photographic Portrait of the People's Pope*, page 143

All the photos in the book are previously unpublished and exclusive.

Q: Pope Francis is first Jesuit and Latin American pope and commonly referred to as “the Pope of the people.” Can you explain some of the reasons behind Pope’s Francis’s popularity and why it is that he draws such strong crowd response?

FMC: It is difficult to say. The numbers attending events in the Vatican tripled from 2 million to almost 6 million in the first year in office. I think people like his openness and sincerity. He also speaks from the heart in easy to understand language. This makes him very attractive to many.

Q: Pope Francis’s visit to the United States has been extended twice to include not only a speaking engagement at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia, but also additional stops planned in Washington, DC, to address US Congress, and New York City to speak at the United Nations. What item on Pope Francis’s agenda would you recommend Americans tune in for? What do you imagine the papacy is hoping to take away from this visit abroad?

FMC: The first visit by a Pope to North America was made by Pope Paul VI in 1965. That is 50 years ago. Who could have dreamt that within half a century a Pope from the Americas would return? I know that special consideration is being given to a visit to Ground Zero. The Pope will address the topic of climate change and care of the planet. Migration issues and human trafficking are on the top of his agenda. He even thought of entering North America from Mexico but realized that it would make the trip too long.

Q: When Pope Benedict abdicated his position and Pope Francis was elected the new pope, what were the initial reactions from within the Catholic community and the Vatican? In his short time as pope, how has Pope Francis made an impact in his new role?

FMC: Most people were entirely taken by surprise even though Pope Benedict had intimated at least two years earlier that he contemplated retiring if his health were not suited to the requirements of the office. The Vatican as an institution does not really welcome change and found it difficult to deal with two popes.

Q: There are an estimated 78 million baptized Catholics, comprising 25 percent of the population of North America. For Catholic Americans specifically, what do you believe Pope Francis’s visit to the United States symbolizes? Why is Pope Francis such a heralded figure?

FMC: Americans have a great reputation for hospitality. I expect he will receive a rapturous welcome. However, he will have to address a number of issues in morality and ethics in a pluralistic society and that will be a challenge for him. But generally people seem well disposed to him. And for the Hispanic community I expect a fellow Latino will be a source of great pride.

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INTERVIEW AVAILABILITY

Father Collins is available now for remote interviews and phoners from Dublin.

He will be in the U.S. for media interviews in September.

Rodolfo Felici is available for interview by email.



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