



Pope Francis Passes Away

[Source: HT](#)

Pope Francis (Jorge Mario Bergoglio), spiritual leader of the **Roman Catholic Church**, has passed away.

Pope:

- The **Pope** is the **Bishop of Rome** and the **visible head of the Catholic Church**, which regards **Jesus Christ as its invisible head**. He is also known as the **supreme pontiff**, and **his office is called the Papacy**.
 - He resides in **Vatican City** and has supreme authority over Catholics.
- He is elected by the **College of Cardinals** (senior officials) through a **conclave (voting)** and any baptized Catholic man can become Pope, but cardinals typically choose one of their own.

Vatican City:

- Vatican City is the **world's smallest sovereign state**. It is **landlocked within Rome, Italy**, and became independent from Italy with the **signing of the Lateran Treaty in 1929**.
- **Governed by the Pope**, who holds supreme authority over all branches of government, it **operates independently**, with its **own postal system, financial structure, and no income tax**.
- The city is home to **St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican Museums etc**. Its revenue comes from **global Catholic donations**, investments, and sales of publications.



World's Smallest Countries:

The Smallest Countries in the World

1		Vatican 0.49 km ²	6		Liechtenstein 160 km ²
2		Monaco 2.02 km ²	7		Marshall Islands 181 km ²
3		Nauru 21 km ²	8		St Kitts and Nevis 261 km ²
4		Tuvalu 26 km ²	9		Maldives 300 km ²
5		San Marino 61 km ²	10		Malta 316 km ²

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