

Published on *National Catholic Reporter* (<https://www.ncronline.org>)

March 13, 2013 at 3:30pm

The first controversy of Pope Francis' papacy

by Heidi Schlumpf

NCR Today
Pope Francis

Is it "Francis" for St. Francis of Assisi? Or St. Francis Xavier, the Jesuit? Does it reference care for the poor, or evangelization? Or maybe both?

Discuss.

Editor's Note: I don't want to squelch discussion, but in Rome we asked this question, and Jesuit Fr. Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said the new pope chose the name in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

--Dennis Coday.

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