

## The first controversy of Pope Francis' papacy

Heidi Schlumpf | Mar. 13, 2013 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](#) [1] the new pope chose the name in honor of St. Francis of Assisi.

--Dennis Coday.

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