

## Francis once thought of taking the name John, after Pope John XXIII

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[From David Gibson over at Religion News Service](#) [1]:

On a day when everyone is recalling Pope Benedict XVI's historic -- and stunning -- announcement last Feb. 11 that he intended to resign the papacy comes a fascinating revelation from the 2005 conclave that elected Benedict:

Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who reportedly ran second to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger in that conclave, later told a fellow cardinal that if he had been elected then he would have taken the name "John" after Pope John XXIII.

Instead, Bergoglio was elected in March of last year two weeks after Benedict resigned and became the first pope named after Francis of Assisi.

...

"John, I would have called myself John, like the Good Pope; I would have been completely inspired by him," Bergoglio told Cardinal Francesco Marchisano, according to a new book by longtime Italian Vaticanista Gianluca Barile.

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[1] <http://davidgibson.religionnews.com/2014/02/11/pope-francis-wanted-called-pope-john-xxiv/>