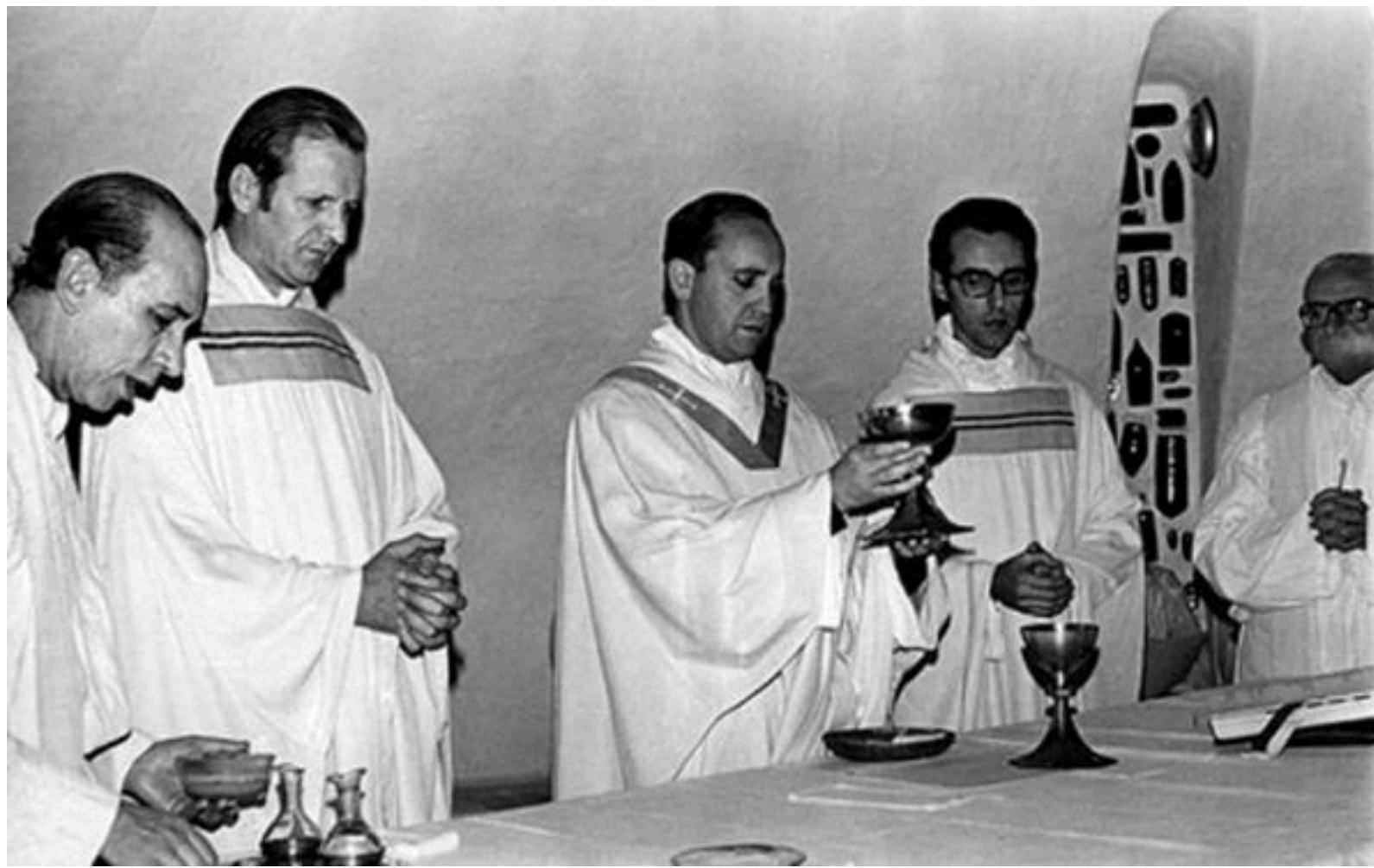


A Greater Promise Than Expected: Pope Francis

The first Pope from the Americas

A Life Pledged to God

December 13, 1969—Jorge Mario Bergoglio laid prostrate before the altar as he was ordained a priest of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). This moment was not about his ambition or recognition, but rather it was a surrender to God.



Fr. Bergoglio (middle)



Cardinal Bergoglio on public transit

El Papa de los Pobres—“The Pope of the Poor.”

The Pope of the Poor

Only four years after his ordination, Bergoglio’s leadership qualities became undeniable. At the age of 36, he was appointed Provincial Superior of the Jesuits in Argentina. Furthermore, just shy of his 30th anniversary as a Priest, Bergoglio became Archbishop of Buenos Aires (1998) and was tasked with leading millions in faith. Despite this increase in rank, He refused a palace and instead chose a modest apartment. He cooked his own meals, took public transportation, and personally visited slums. In 2001, Pope John Paul II appointed him Cardinal, but Bergoglio remained the same man—humble, quiet, reluctant to be in the spotlight.



Pope Francis at his first appearance

“Habemus Papam” (We Have a Pope)

Then, March 13, 2013, upon the resignation of Pope Benedict XVI—history was made. The name was announced: “Habemus Papam: Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio.”