



SANCTITY CELEBRATED. Pope Francis, with Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI in attendance, leads the canonization Mass for Sts. John Paul II and John XXIII on April 27 in St. Peter's Square. Dignitaries, heads of state and royalty from Europe and across the world attended the events. Franco Origlia/Getty Images



DEVOTED SERVANTS. Pope Francis greets Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI as he arrives at St. Peter's Basilica during a celebration for grandparents and the elderly on Sept. 28. Pope Francis celebrated Mass following a special encounter with elderly persons. In his homily, the Holy Father said, 'The elderly are key to the health of free society.' Franco Origlia/Getty Images



CONCLUSION. Mother Agnes Mary Donovan, head of the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, discusses the final report on the Vatican's apostolic visitation of women religious in the United States on Dec. 16. To her right is Sister Sharon Holland, president of the Leadership Council of Women Religious. The Vatican's long-awaited report thanked the sisters for their selfless work caring for the poor, gently suggesting ways to survive amid a decline in numbers and promising to value their 'feminine genius' more. AP photo/Andrew Medichini

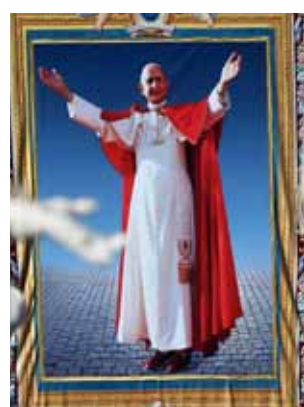
2014 in Review

Saintly Popes, a Synod on the Family and Curial Reform

FINANCIAL REFORM. French financier Jean-Baptiste de Franssu became the new president of the Institute for Religious Works, or Vatican Bank, in July. Board members include Clemens Boersig from Germany, American Mary Ann Glendon and Briton Michael Hintze. ANSA/Angelo Carconi



CHURCH TEACHING UNDER ATTACK. Archbishop Silvano Tomasi (l), the Holy See's ambassador to the United Nations, confers with Archbishop Charles Scicluna of Malta, the Vatican's former chief prosecutor of clerical sexual abuse, prior to the start of a questioning over clerical sexual abuse of children at the headquarters of the office of the high commissioner for human rights in Geneva in January. The United Nations used its meeting with the Vatican not only to discuss the protection of minors from sexual abuse, but also as a public platform to attack Church teaching on sexuality and the dignity of human life. AP photo/Keystone, Martial Trezzini



NEW 'BLESSED.' A tapestry depicting Blessed Paul VI is unveiled on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica during Mass for the beatification of Paul VI, which came at the closing of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family. Franco Origlia/Getty Images



HOPEFUL DEVELOPMENT. Marie Collins and Vatican spokesman Father Federico Lombardi leave at the end of a press conference at the Vatican in May. Members of Pope Francis' newly created sexual abuse advisory board say they will develop specific protocols to hold bishops and other Church authorities accountable if they fail to report suspected abuse or protect children from pedophile priests. The eight-member committee met for the first time in May at the Pope's residence to discuss the scope of their work and future members; the committee was complete as of Dec. 17. Collins, a committee member and survivor of sexual abuse, said she came away from the inaugural meeting of the commission 'hopeful.' AP photo/Riccardo De Luca



CELEBRATING CONSECRATED LIFE. Pope Francis called for a Year of Consecrated Life, which began Nov. 30. The Holy Father expressed his expectations for the yearlong observance: that consecrated men and women would be witnesses of communion, of joy and the Gospel and that they go evermore to the peripheries to proclaim the Good News. Clockwise from lower right, priests celebrate the opening of the Year of Consecrated Life at the Vatican. CNA A group of women religious attend the canonizations of Popes John Paul II and John XXIII in April. Giorgio Cosulich/Getty Images Benedictine monks from Newark Abbey in New Jersey were featured in the 2014 film *The Rule*. bongiorno-productions.com Former celebrated model Olalla Oliveiros (l) left her lucrative career behind in May to become Sister Olalla Del Si De Maria, a semi-cloistered nun with the Order of St. Michael in Spain. grupodesanmiguelarcangel.org



SYNOD STIRRINGS. Above left, bishops and cardinals attend the first sessions of the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the Family at the Vatican on Oct. 6. From the run-up to the two-week session and for weeks afterward, there were fireworks, as the ancillary issues of Communion for divorced-and-remarried Catholics and special status for same-sex-attracted Catholics detracted from the synod's aim of how to restore the family unit. Franco Origlia/Getty Images Cardinal Raymond Burke (above right), along with Cardinals Gerhard Müller, Walter Brandmüller, Carlo Caffarra and Velasio De Paolis, contributed to a book in response to the call issued by Cardinal Walter Kasper for the Church to alter its practice of withholding Communion for Catholics in illicit relationships. Cardinal Burke in November was transferred from his post as prefect of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signatura and appointed patron of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. CNA/Stephen Driscoll



NOTABLE MEETINGS. Above left, Pope Francis meets Israeli President Shimon Peres (l), Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (second from right) and Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I for a peace invocation prayer at the Vatican Gardens on Pentecost Sunday, June 8. The Holy Father invited Peres and Abbas to the encounter during his visit to the Holy Land the previous month. Franco Origlia/Getty Images Above right, the Pope also met for the first time with President Barack Obama in March. Despite disagreeing with the Church on a number of social issues, Obama called himself a 'great admirer' of Pope Francis. AP photo/Pablo Martinez Monsivais