

Gudziak: Surprise Trump-Zelenskyy encounter a gift from pope

written by OSV News |



In a significant encounter at the Vatican, U.S. President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy met face-to-face for the first time since February. The meeting, which took place just before Pope Francis' funeral Mass, was seen as a gesture of peace prospects for the world.

In newly released video, pope offers wise advice

written by Catholic News Service |

Pope Francis recorded a video message in January urging young people to learn to listen to others, which was released on YouTube after his death April 27.

Catholics in Arkansas remember what made pope special

written by Katie Zakrzewski |



Pope Francis, renowned for his pastoral leadership in supporting the poor, marginalized, and the environment, passed away on Easter Monday, April 21. His death has resonated globally, including in Arkansas, where clergy and lay leaders have expressed reflections on his influence in their lives and ministries.

Poor, powerful pray for eternal repose of Pope Francis

written by Catholic News Service |



Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re presided over the funeral Mass of Pope Francis, who was remembered as “a pope among the people, with an open heart toward everyone.” Approximately 200,000 mourners gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the ceremony.

Papal trivia: The first and lasts of papal elections of the past

written by Catholic News Service |

Pope Francis and Pope Benedict XVI were among 18 churchmen elected between ages 71 and 80. Pope Benedict was the first pope to resign in nearly 600 years.

Conclave to elect next pope will begin on Wednesday, May 7

written by Catholic News Service |



The Vatican announced the conclave to elect the next pope will commence May 7. Cardinals will first celebrate the “Mass for the Election of the Roman Pontiff” in St. Peter’s Basilica before proceeding to the Sistine Chapel.

Bishop Taylor releases statement on Pope Francis’ death

written by Bishop Anthony B. Taylor |

Bishop Anthony B. Taylor issued this statement following the death of Pope Francis:

“The passing of Pope Francis calls us to pray for him and to reflect on our relationship with the Lord. As the spiritual leader for Catholics throughout the world, he led by word and example,

always challenging himself along with us to be more Christ-like in the way we live our faith. He sought to be a messenger of hope and mercy for Catholics and others, calling all to a deeper relationship with the Lord through prayer and good works that reflected the compassion and love of Jesus.

“He was sincerely and deeply concerned about the poor and people living on the margins, and he was not afraid as their Shepherd to be their voice. As we join the world in mourning the Holy Father’s passing, let us pray for eternal rest for his soul. Eternal rest grant unto your servant, Pope Francis, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him. Amen.”

U.S. cardinal to play key role until a new pope is elected

written by Catholic News Service |



Following the death of Pope Francis on April 21, U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell assumed the role of chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, tasked with managing the Church’s day-to-day operations and organizing the papal election.

Special Church terms used during papal transitions

written by Catholic News Service |



Cardinals under the age of 80 are eligible to participate in a conclave to elect a new pope. During the interregnum, the camerlengo, assisted by three other cardinals chosen by lot, manages the daily affairs of the Holy See.

Vance travels to Vatican for Holy Saturday meeting

written by Catholic News Service |

Vice President JD Vance met with Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, and Archbishop Paul R. Gallagher, Vatican foreign minister, April 19 at the Apostolic Palace. The discussions focused on international issues, including war, political tensions, humanitarian situations, and the defense of religious freedom.