



A moment from Pope Francis' wake that began this Tuesday in the chapel of Casa de Santa Marta.

Pope Francis, the pontiff who humanized the Church in the 21st century

The Vatican is heading towards the conclave to choose the successor to a Holy Father who marked a stage

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The death of Pope Francis, officially announced yesterday by the Holy See due to a stroke, has left a significant void at the top of the Catholic Church. As the Vatican prepares for the funeral, which will be held this coming Saturday, April 26th, eyes

are turning to the next conclave and to who will be his successor, in a shortlist in which the most repeated names are Pietro Parolin, Luis Antonio Gokim, Fridolin Ambongo and Peter Kodwo Appiah.

In this regard, several voices from the Andorran ecclesiastical and diplomatic world have valued the pontiff's legacy

With the funeral set for April 26th, the Church begins the path of the Conclave to choose the successor

and have reflected on the future of the spiritual leadership of more than a billion Catholics in the world, emphasizing the fact that the Holy See will continue with a line of work similar to that of Jorge Mario Bergoglio, more focused on more updated visions and similar to the world of the 21st century.

Precisely, the ambassador of



Carlos Álvarez

AMBASSADOR OF ANDORRA

«The Church has the capacity to adapt to the world and this is what has kept the institution alive»

Pepe Chisvert

FATHER OF SANT JULIÀ DE LÒRIA

«From now on, we could expect continuity in the pastoral and opening line of the Holy See»

Ramon Sàrries

FATHER OF ANDORRA LA VELLA

«Over time, Pope Francis defended immigrants and peace in multiple conflicts»

Jordi Castellet

THEOLOGIAN

«The voice of Pope Francis has been prophetic for our time. His legacy will mark the future»

Andorra to the Vatican, Carles Álvarez, has highlighted in EL PERIÒDIC that the future of the Church is maintained under a line of continuity and adaptation. «The Church has a line that is followed over time, and it is this capacity to adapt to the present world that has kept it alive for a thousand years», he stated.

Despite avoiding making predictions about who the new Pope could be, Álvarez has insisted that «the pools are not really worth it», highlighting the uncertainty inherent in such a delicate moment.

Father Pepe Chisvert, rector of Sant Julià de Lòria, has expressed himself in the same vein, appealing to faith to face this new stage: «Only the Holy Spirit knows who the successor will be», he said. However, Chisvert highlighted that «the majority of the cardinals with the right to vote have been appointed by Pope Francis himself, therefore, continuity in his pastoral and open line could be expected.»

For his part, Father Ramon Sàrries, rector of Andorra la Vella, has underlined the importance of the current context: «Almost 80% of the cardinal electors have been appointed by Francis. This opens the door to a Pope who continues his commitment to a renewed Church, open and close to the peripheries.» Sàrries has pointed out that it will be necessary to see whether the future election follows this path or if there is a change in the reform lines promoted so far.

On the other hand, theologian Jordi Castellet has provided a global vision of the future of the papacy: «We should not be surprised if the next pope comes from Africa, Asia or Latin America, where the growth of Catholicism is more intense than in Europe». Castellet has also warned about the need for the Church not to close in on itself: «The danger is wanting to preserve the institution above its evangelical mission. Francis has made it clear that the Church must be at the service of the weakest».

Regarding the assessment of his pontificate, Álvarez has defined him as «a brave Pope, very

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PIETRO PAROLIN

THE VATICANO NEWS



LUIS ANTONIO GOKIM

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FRIDOLIM AMBONGO

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PETER KODWO APPIAH

close to the people and always on the side of those most in need», while Chisvert has highlighted his «coherence, cleanliness within the Church and an evangelical reading of the present times». However, Sàrries has insisted on his dialogical and simple attitude, recalling how «he rejected the Apostolic Palace to live in Santa Marta and how he defended immigrants and peace in multiple conflicts». For his part, Castellet highlighted that «Francis has broken with the self-referential vision of the Church, to put the focus back on the evangelical mission».

Thus, the memory of Pope Francis is permeated in the testimonies of those who followed him closely. «He has been widely accepted for his close and human style», expressed Álvarez. In this sense, Sàrries shared different anecdotes such as the moment when the Pope understood the functioning of the co-principality of Andorra and how, since then, he has maintained a close relationship with the country. Finally, Chisvert highlighted Pope Francis' ability to revive «the flame of faith in many places in the world», while Castellet concluded by affirming that «he has been a prophetic voice for our time. His legacy will mark the future».

It should be remembered that this Tuesday the funeral ceremonies have already begun at the Pontiff's residence, at Casa de Santa Marta, although the funeral has been set for next Saturday, April 26th, in St. Peter's Square in Vatican City. From now on, the Church begins the path of the Conclave to choose the successor. The world awaits with attention who will take over from a Pope who knew how to break patterns with simplicity, firmness and a profound evangelical vocation. ●