



## A Big Heart Open to God: A Conversation with Pope Francis

*By Pope Francis*

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### **A Big Heart Open to God: A Conversation with Pope Francis** By Pope Francis

The world was shocked when Jesuit magazines across the globe simultaneously released an exclusive interview with Pope Francis, just six months into his historic papacy. Within minutes of its release, the interview dominated the worldwide media. In a wide-ranging conversation, Pope Francis spoke movingly about his spiritual life, his hopes for church reform, his open-minded stance toward gays and lesbians, his views on women, and even his favorite movies.

*America* magazine, where the idea for the interview originated, commissioned a team of five Italian-language experts to ensure that the pope's words were transmitted accurately into English. Now this remarkable, historic, and moving interview is available in book form.

In addition to the full papal interview conducted by Antonio Spadaro, SJ, on behalf of the Jesuit journals, *A Big Heart Open to God* includes an introduction by the editor in chief of *America*, Matt Malone, SJ, describing the genesis of the interview, a series of responses by a diverse range of Catholic voices, and a spiritual reflection on the interview by James Martin, SJ, author of *Te Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*. In his reflection, Father Martin helps readers use the pope's powerful comments as a foundation for personal prayer.

In this historic interview, Pope Francis's vision for the church and humanity itself is delivered through a warm and intimate conversation, and he shows us all how to have a big heart open to God.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 17, 1936, Jorge Mario Bergoglio became Pope Francis on March 13, 2013, when he was named the 266th pope of the Roman Catholic Church. Bergoglio, the first pope from the Americas, reportedly took his papal title after St. Francis of Assisi of Italy. Prior to his election as pope, Bergoglio served as archbishop of Buenos Aires from 1998 to 2013 (succeeding Antonio Quarracino), as cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church of Argentina from 2001 to 2013, and as president of the Bishops' Conference of Argentina from 2005 to 2011.

REV. JAMES MARTIN, SJ, is a Jesuit priest, contributing editor of *America magazine*, and bestselling author of *The Jesuit Guide to (Almost) Everything*, *Between Heaven and Mirth*, and *Together on Retreat*. Father Martin is a frequent commentator in the national and international media, and has appeared on *The Colbert Report* (which refers to Martin as "the show chaplain"), *Fresh Air with Terry Gross*, *The O'Reilly Factor*, *NewsHour with Jim Lehrer*, the History Channel, BBC, Vatican Radio, and in the *New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Boston Globe*. Before entering the Jesuits in 1988, Father Martin graduated from the Wharton School of Business and worked with General Electric for six years.

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