

World News

Death of Pope Francis, from the funeral to the Conclave: what happens now

ADNKRONOS INTERNATIONAL
Rome

With the death of Pope Francis, the Church has entered a transition phase. The first act fell to the Pope’s personal physician, who had the task of officially ascertaining the death. Once death was ascertained, the doctor informed the Cardinal Camerlengo. This key figure, whose role is central during the Vacant See, has the task of officially announcing the death of the Pope.

The Camerlengo, in the presence of the Masters of the Papal Liturgical Celebrations, officially verified the death. Tradition dictates that he call the Pope by name three times and then pronounce the Latin phrase ‘Vere Papa mortuus est’ (“Truly the Pope is dead”). The vacant see begins.

The Camerlengo proceeds to seal the Pope’s room and inform the Vicar of Rome, who in turn will communicate the news to the world. The news is disseminated through the official channels of the Holy See, reaching the faithful and world leaders. With the vacant see, the Camerlengo assumes a role of primary importance: he is responsible for the administration of the assets of the Holy See and the preparation of the Conclave for the election of the new Pontiff. A symbolic act is the destruction of the Fisherman’s Ring, the ring that the Pope wears and which is used to seal official documents. The destruction takes place in the presence of the cardinals.

With the vacant see, the dicasteries of the Roman curia continue to perform ordinary functions, albeit with some limitations. No decisions that would belong to the Pope. The body of the Pontiff is prepared for



Pope Francis waves to the waiting crowds on College Green, as he travels in the Popemobile during his visit to Ireland. The head of the Catholic Church, who led 1.4 billion Catholics worldwide since 2013, died on Monday at the age of 88, the Vatican announced. The Argentinian-born pontiff was the first from Latin America. (Joe Giddens/PA Wire/dpa/TNS)

exposition to the faithful. Francis asked not to be exposed. The Novendials begin: nine days of mourning during which masses are celebrated in suffrage for the deceased Pope.

The funeral takes place in St. Peter’s Square, presided over by the Dean of the College of Cardinals; cardinals, bishops, heads of state and representatives of other religions participate. The Pope has asked to be buried in the Basilica of S. Maria Maggiore.

The cardinal electors prepare for the Conclave; then the cardinals under the age of 80 retire to the Sistine Chapel, which is sealed to ensure the secrecy of the vote. They cannot have contact with the outside world. The voting follows a precise ritual.

The Cardinals write the name of their candidate on a ballot, fold it and place it in a chalice. The ballots are then scrutinized and the results announced. If no one obtains the required majority (two-thirds of the votes), the ballots are burned, producing black smoke that signals to the world that the election has not yet taken place.

When the new Pope is elected, the ballots are burned with dry straw, producing white smoke. After the election, the Cardinal Protodeacon announces to the world from the loggia of St. Peter’s the famous phrase “Habemus Papam”, followed by the name of the new Pontiff. The new Pope appears from the loggia and imparts the “Urbi et Orbi” blessing.

Fragile baby spider monkeys ‘ripped’ from mothers, brought to SoCal. Trafficker sentenced

CLARA HARTER
Los Angeles Times

A Texas man was busted for trafficking vulnerable Mexican baby spider monkeys, who were too young to be separated from their mothers, into San Diego and selling them on Facebook.

Sarmad Ghaled Dafar, 33, was recently sentenced to four months in custody and 180 days of home confinement for trafficking six of the young primates, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agents uncovered his crimes in 2023 when they intercepted three baby Mexican spider monkeys that had been smuggled across the border in Calexico by someone working for him, prosecutors said.

Not only is it illegal to own primates as pets in California, but it’s also especially frowned upon to possess baby spider monkeys. The species is endangered, and infants require constant, skilled care to survive.

“This crime ripped weeks-old baby monkeys from their mothers, disrupted fragile ecosystems, endangered a vulnerable species, and posed significant public health risks,” said U.S. Atty. Adam Gordon in a statement Friday.

After officials seized the three monkeys in August 2023, they searched the smuggler’s phone and found messages indicating that he was bringing the animals across the border for Da-

far.

In his plea agreement, Dafar admitted to coordinating the trafficking of baby spider monkeys, receiving them in the U.S. and arranging their sale.

The three confiscated monkeys — named Chrissy, Jack and Janet — were temporarily quarantined at the San Diego Zoo. As part of his sentence, Dafar was ordered to pay more than \$23,500 in restitution for the cost of their quarantine.

The monkeys have since been permanently housed at the Brookfield Zoo in Chicago, alongside two other baby spider monkeys, named Frankee and Bucees, who were seized in a separate Southwest border smuggling case, prosecutors aid.

During the investigation, officials discovered Dafar had previously smuggled and sold at least three other baby Mexican spider monkeys, in June 2022 and July 2023.

Their whereabouts are unknown.

These three additional monkeys were not quarantined, which is required by law to prevent deadly diseases — such as Ebola, Marburg and mpox — from spreading from primates to humans, prosecutors said.

“This is not merely an economic crime; it is a severe and lasting injury to both wildlife and public safety,” said Gordon. “Border security is not just about interdicting drugs and preventing illegal entries. It also involves protecting the public from dangerous diseases.”

The investigation indicated that Dafar intentionally trafficked baby spider monkeys, despite the risk of separating them from their mothers, because he believed they were easier to hide.

When a Facebook user sent Dafar a news article about spider monkeys seized by U.S. Border Patrol agents, he responded, “He stupid brin[g] to[o] many of them and all adults they make a lot noise and they active. Baby’s most be sleeping and small to hide,” according to court documents.

Dafar messaged potential customers on Facebook and sent photos of baby spider monkeys in diapers and under a heat lamp, both signs indicating that the primates are too young to survive on their own, prosecutors said.

Spider monkey typically nurse for their first two years of life, and most will stay close to their mothers until they are 4 years old.

Their mothers are protective, and the entire troop will work together to defend the baby in the face of a threat, according to testimony from U.S. Fish and Wildlife agents. As a result, poachers will often kill the mother and troop when trying to capture babies.

Genetic testing of Chrissy, Jack and Janet indicated that they all had separate mothers, meaning it is possible that poachers killed many monkeys to capture them.

Dafar has been ordered to surrender on or before May 29, prosecutors said.

Cherokee Nation

Con’t from Page 2

“It was an honor to work with Chief Mankiller in those early days getting water to these communities. At the time we didn’t know we were making all of these impacts as we were just working, putting water lines in, which I enjoyed tremendously,” Charlie Soap said. “It’s interesting to watch all the progress the Cherokee Nation is making. I want to thank you for all you do for our people and supplying the need for water is a tremendous responsibility. Thank you for doing what you’re doing and appreciate this recognition and for Chief Mankiller. We never thought we would reach this place where so many people have water.”

As part of the anniversary celebration, Chief Hoskin announced an increase to spending under the act by \$500,000 using the tribe’s Public Health and Wellness Fund Act revenue.

“I was proud to sponsor the

Mankiller Soap Water Act,” said Councilor Joshua Sam. “It was always designed to be a major step in fully restoring the Cherry Tree Water District, but the more than \$8.38 million dollars investment means we have taken a major step to ensure our communities have access to clean water.”

The act requires biennial studies. The Cherokee Nation’s Department of Transportation and Infrastructure is tasked with conducting studies to identify citizens lacking access to reliable water systems and developing action plans to address these gaps.

Citizens are also encouraged to participate in water quality surveys to help map out areas with poor water access and quality. The act emphasizes improving rural water systems and prioritizes low-income applicants for individual assistance.

This legislation builds on the Cherokee Nation’s commitment to ensuring that all citizens have access to safe, running water, improving health and quality of life across the reservation.

Last year 1,900 Cherokee Nation citizens who live on the reservation responded to the survey, 120 Cherokee Nation citizens self-reported they had poor or insufficient water quality.

“We are reaching out to all of those on how best to serve them,” said Michael Lynn, Director of Transportation and Infrastructure.

The act investments also measured 8,000 homes without access to public water systems: 121 small public water systems and 53 public sewer systems within the Cherokee Nation Reservation. To date, the Cherokee Nation has allocated \$65 million for Mankiller Soap Water Act projects in which \$23.8 million has been spent. For the full report visit www.cherokee.org/media/h3slduao/mswa.pdf

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The Coffeyville Journal
620-251-3300
716 S. Maple
Coffeyville, KS 67337

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Helpful Tips

5 benefits of game play for children
Parents walk a fine line when trying to determine how much time to allow their kids to engage in game play. Game play has traditionally had a bad reputation, but parents can rest assured that by letting their children get involved in entertaining games of all types, including video games, they’re actually helping their youngsters in various ways.

1. Board games present chances for learning. Board games are some of the first games young chil-

Helpful Tips

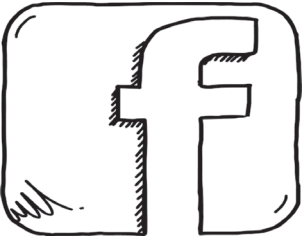
dren get to play, and they can serve as introductions to lessons kids will ultimately learn in school. Simple games help children follow directions, learn colors, numbers, and develop hand-eye coordination, according to Scholastic. As kids age and games become more challenging, the chances for learning increase.

2. Games help with physical development. Parenting magazine reports that outdoor play entices children to be active and can boost fitness and physical stamina. All types of games work the body by strengthening muscles and bones. Being outdoors in the fresh air and sunshine is good for the body and mind. When a child is physically fit, he or she also may have a strong immune system that reduces the risk of developing diseases like obesity or diabetes later in life.

3. Games can boost creativity
Whether they’re following the rules or finding ways to circumvent them, games offer opportunities for children to delve into their creative sides and utilize their imaginations. Video games can immerse them in different worlds where they can ponder the what-ifs of role play.

4. Boost interest in school subjects
Certain video games depict historical settings or events that drive the play. Players may want to learn more about these situations and events. In addition, sparking an interest in various subjects and keeping the mind active can improve basic cognitive functions, states the pregnancy and childcare resource Maternity Glow.

5. Games allow for broadened social activity
Much in the way that game nights can help adults bond and make new friends, children who play games together may be able to meet others and engage with kids their age due to this shared interest. Children can benefit from game play in ways that might surprise their parents.


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