



HOW IS A POPE ELECTED?



Death or Resignation

The papal seat becomes vacant either through the death or resignation of the current pope.

Period of Mourning

A traditional mourning period of nine days (novemdiales) follows, along with logistical preparations.



Cardinals Gather in Rome

All cardinals under the age of 80 are called to the Vatican to participate in the conclave.

Conclave Begins

The cardinals are secluded in the Sistine Chapel for prayer and voting. No communication with the outside world is allowed.



Paper Ballot Voting

Votes are cast anonymously on paper ballots, up to four times per day.

Smoke Signals

After each voting session, the ballots are burned. Black smoke means no decision; white smoke signals a successful election.



Two-Thirds Majority

A cardinal must receive at least a two-thirds majority to be elected pope.

'HABEMUS PAPAM!'

If a candidate accepts, the Cardinal Protodeacon announces 'Habemus Papam' to the public.



New Pope Appears

The newly elected pope appears on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and gives his first apostolic blessing.