

A photograph of Pope Francis, dressed in white, waving his right hand. He is smiling and looking towards the camera. In the background, the dome and architecture of St. Peter's Basilica are visible under a clear blue sky.

Today in History

March 13, 2013

▲ **Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina succeeded Benedict XVI as pope, taking the name Francis. He was the first pontiff from Latin America**

1813: Sweden joined Britain, Russia, Austria and Prussia in the Grand Alliance against Napoleon

1988: The **Seikan Tunnel**, the world's longest tunnel with an undersea section, opened in Japan

1990: The Soviet parliament voted to approve a multi-party political system, ending the political monopoly of the Communist Party after 72 years

2007: Japan and Australia signed a security pact