

Candidates to succeed Pope Francis

Experts say there is no single frontrunner to be the next Pope, but several names have been cited as indications of which direction the Roman Catholic Church might take

▼ Pietro Parolin, 70

Soft-spoken Italian has been number two at Vatican since 2013, when Francis made him secretary of state



▼ Fridolin Ambongo, 65

Archbishop of Kinshasa, capital of Democratic Rep. of Congo. Francis made him a cardinal in 2019



▲ Péter Erdő, 72

Hungarian cardinal and Archbishop of Budapest is seen as strong choice among conservatives



▼ Luis Antonio

Tagle, 67
Liberal-leaning Filipino was made a cardinal by **Pope Benedict XVI** in 2012. Would be first Asian pope

▼ Anders

Arborelius, 75
Bishop of Stockholm was appointed Sweden's first cardinal in 2017



► Pierbattista Pizzaballa, 60

Vatican's top official for Middle East affairs. Made a cardinal in 2023, he would be first Italian pope since **John Paul I** in 1978



► Matteo

Zuppi, 69
Archbishop of Bologna is closely tied to Sant'Egidio Community, Rome-based

Catholic charity known for its service to the poor and conflict resolution

St. Peter's Basilica

