

Pope Francis most popular world leader

28th March, 2016



Pope Francis is more popular than any political world leader. This is what an opinion poll has suggested. The poll was carried out by WIN/Gallup International on Thursday. It found

that 54 per cent of people around the world have a favourable opinion of the Pope. Researchers asked over 1,000 people in 64 countries about who they thought was the world's best leader. Pope Francis was most popular with Roman Catholics. Around 85 per cent of Catholics who took part in the poll said they had a favourable opinion of him. Most of the people who did not believe in any god had a favourable opinion of the Pope. The president of WIN/Gallup International said: "Pope Francis is a leader who transcends his own religion."

It was fairly predictable where Pope Francis, 79, was most popular. The largely Catholic countries of Portugal and the Philippines were the most enthusiastic about him, with ratings of 94% and 93%. Pope Francis's lowest ratings came in Algeria, Tunisia and Turkey. These were the only countries in the poll to give Francis a negative rating. Most people in Azerbaijan said they did not know much about him. The Pope beat other world leaders like U.S. president Barack Obama and German chancellor Angela Merkel. The BBC's religious affairs correspondent said: "Francis has enjoyed enormous goodwill and won the hearts and minds not just of Roman Catholics but also of people from other religions."

Sources: *Newsweek* / *BBC* / *CatholicHerald*

Writing

There need to be a leader of the world. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

popular / opinion poll / favourable / researchers / best leader / believe in god / religion / predictable / enthusiastic / ratings / negative / religious affairs / correspondent

True / False

- The article says Pope Francis is more popular than political leaders. T / F
- Over 60% of people have a favourable opinion of Pope Francis. T / F
- Over 80% of Roman Catholics have a favourable opinion of Francis. T / F
- People who do not believe in God have a favourable opinion of Francis. T / F
- The Philippines was the country most enthusiastic about Pope Francis. T / F
- Pope Francis got a positive rating from Turkey. T / F
- The article says Barack Obama is more popular than Angela Merkel. T / F
- The BBC said Pope Francis won hearts and minds. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| 1. popular | a. positive |
| 2. suggested | b. reporter |
| 3. favourable | c. indicated |
| 4. took part | d. foreseeable |
| 5. transcends | e. well liked |
| 6. predictable | f. eager |
| 7. largely | g. participated |
| 8. enthusiastic | h. huge |
| 9. correspondent | i. rises above |
| 10. enormous | j. mainly |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you know about Pope Francis?
- What do you think of Pope Francis?
- What do you need to do to be a good leader?
- What would you do if you were the leader of your country?
- Why do you think some countries gave Francis a negative rating?
- What is the leader of your country like?
- Is a poll of 1,000 people a good way of finding the best leader?
- What questions would you like to ask Pope Francis?

BreakingNewsEnglish - The Mini Lesson

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. more popular than any | a. in any god |
| 2. an opinion | b. of the Pope |
| 3. have a favourable opinion | c. correspondent |
| 4. Researchers asked | d. poll |
| 5. people who did not believe | e. other religions |
| 6. It was fairly | f. political world leader |
| 7. a negative | g. minds |
| 8. The BBC's religious affairs | h. predictable |
| 9. hearts and | i. over 1,000 people |
| 10. people from | j. rating |

Discussion – Student B

- Who is the world's best leader?
- Why do you think Pope Francis is the most popular leader?
- Who is the greatest leader in history?
- Would you be a good leader? Why?
- Does there need to be a leader of the world?
- Are religious leaders better than political leaders?
- What do you think of Barack Obama as a leader?
- What advice do you have for Pope Francis?

Spelling

- ioilptcla world leader
- an ipoionn poll
- ecrirad out by WIN/Gallup International
- errsesahrec asked over 1,000 people
- people who did not eeievlb in any god
- a leader who transcends his own eirgoiln
- It was fairly ptlericaebd
- the most tiuchietsans
- a geeianvt rating
- enirtsedp Barack Obama
- The BBC's religious raffsia correspondent
- Francis has enjoyed mounoers goodwill

Answers – Synonym Match

1. e	2. c	3. a	4. g	5. i
6. d	7. j	8. f	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Barack Obama

You think Barack Obama is the world's best leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their leader isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Pope Francis, Vladimir Putin or Angela Merkel.

Role B – Pope Francis

You think Pope Francis is the world's best leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their leader isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Barack Obama, Vladimir Putin or Angela Merkel.

Role C – Vladimir Putin

You think Vladimir Putin is the world's best leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their leader isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Pope Francis, Barack Obama or Angela Merkel.

Role D – Angela Merkel

You think Angela Merkel is the world's best leader. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their leader isn't so good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): Pope Francis, Vladimir Putin or Barack Obama.

Speaking – Leaders

Rank these with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| • Narendra Modi | • Barack Obama |
| • Angela Merkel | • Tim Cook |
| • Vladimir Putin | • Dilma Rousseff |
| • Ali Khamenei | • Pope Francis |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	F	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.