

Lecture about the relations of the Catholic Church
and Judaism in Buenos Aires,
the city of the pope Francis

February 26th, 2015

Fr. Daniel Alejandro Cutri



Buenos Aires Cathedral



Frontis made in 1863 by a french artist:
Joseph Dubourdieu



In the 42 meters is narrated the meeting of Joseph with his brothers and his father Jacob

“Then he [Israel] sent Judah before him to Joseph, to point out before him the way to Goshen.

And they came to the land of Goshen.

So Joseph made ready his chariot and went up to Goshen to meet his father Israel; and he presented himself to him, and fell on his neck and wept on his neck a good while.

And Israel said to Joseph,

“Now let me die, since I have seen your face, because you are still alive.”

Genesis 46:28-30



The artist wanted that his work
“to transmit love and reconciliation”

Mural Inauguration

April 1997

**For the memorial of the
victims of Shoa and the
terrorist attacks to the
Israel Embassy in Buenos
Aires (3/17/92) and the
AMIA (Asociación Mutual
Israelita Argentina)
(7/18/94)**





In the outer plate is transcribed:

"I believe in the sun even when doesn't shine. I believe in love even when I don't feel it. I believe in God even when he is silent "

by Zvi Kolitz



Cardinal Antonio Quarracino



Testimonies. Opening Ceremony Memorial Mural.

George E. Pataki, Governor of New York

Avner Shalev, Director of Yad Vashem Holocaust in Jerusalem -Del

Elie Wiesel, Nobel Peace Prize

Cardinal John O'Connor, Archbishop of New York

Norman Lamm, president of Yeshiva University in New York

Dr. Raúl Alfonsín, former President of Argentina

Shimon Peres

Ezer Weizman

Dan Tichon, Speaker of the Knesset

Steven Spielberg - Marc Engel, Survivors of the Shoah Foundation

Herzl Inbar, Director of Affairs for Latin America and the Caribbean - Ministry of Foreign Affairs Israeli

Eliahu Ben-Elissar, Israeli Ambassador to US

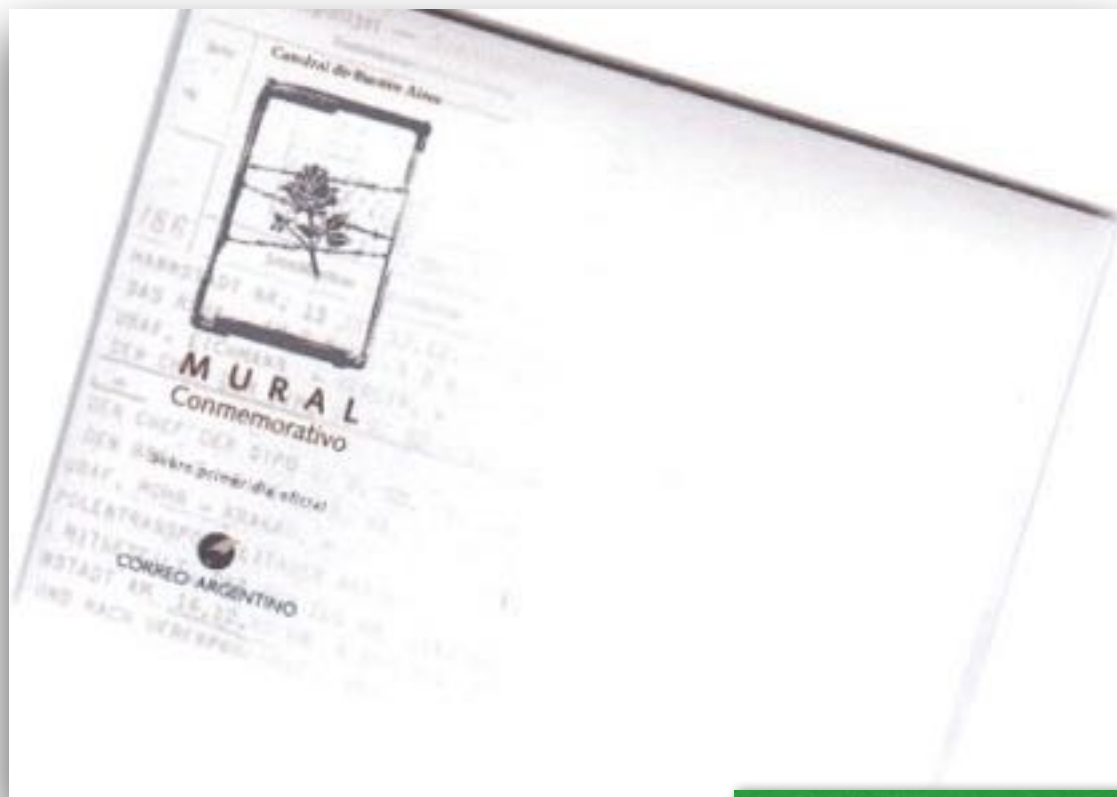
Yitzhak Mordechai, Israeli Defense Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu, Israeli Prime Minister

Limor Livnat, Minister of Communications Israel

Ariel Sharon, Israeli Minister of National Infrastructures

Ori Z. Soltes, Director- National Jewish Museum in Washington



Memorial postage stamp





Simón Moguilevsky, Maciej Kozlowski,
Nili Amit and Baruj Tenenbaum



Simón Moguilevsky and Maciej Kozlowski

Kristallnacht Commemoration Ceremony

Buenos Aires Cathedral



70th Anniversary of the Kristallnacht



Buenos aires Cathedral,
November 11th, 2008

Organized by B'nai B'rith Argentina and the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenism.

The ceremony was addressed by the priest Víctor Fernández, Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Catholic University of Argentina and Rabbi Abraham Skorka, rector of the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary. Besides, the text "From death to hope," by Rabbi Leon Klenicki and theologian Eugene Fischer was read.

Since 1994 B'nai B'rith organizes this commemoration in different Catholics churches (like this picture shows) in order to keep alive the memory and remember what at the time was silenced, leading to the Shoah.

But the great idea to do it in the Buenos Aires Cathedral was of the Cardinal Bergoglio.

In the picture, Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio and Rabbi Felipe Yafe in the act of remembrance of Kristallnacht in the Parish of St. Nicholas of Bari in 2005





Sharim Choir, from the Argentinean Hebrew Society



Victor Fernández (Theology Faculty Dean, UCA), Rabbi Abraham Skorka and Jorge Junor (Cathedral's rector)





Survivors of the Shoah light the first candle in memory of the six million



Second Candle in memory of the one and a half million
children killed



Jewish and Christian teens light the Third Candle



Wolfgang Levy, a member of B'nai B'rith and witness of the Kristallnacht, lights the Fourth Candle



Marta de Antueno, President of Argentinean Judeo Christian Fellowship Lights the Fifth Candle



Dany Gazit, Ambassador of Israel, lights the Sixth Candle



Victor Fernández speech



Rabbi Abraham Skorka speech





Jazan Oscar Fleischer





74th Anniversary of Kristallnacht



Buenos Aires Cathedral,
November 12th, 2012

KRISTALLNACHT

La noche de los cristales rotos

En la noche del 9 de noviembre de 1938 los nazis profanaron y destruyeron más de 1.000 sinagogas, mataron a decenas, encarcelaron a 30.000 judíos en campos de concentración, negocios y empresas fueron saqueados.

El mundo se mantuvo en silencio: esa noche comenzó la shoá. Holocausto judío del siglo XX.



Monumento a la Shoá, BERLÍN

NUESTRA PRESENCIA HONRARÁ Y RECORDARÁ

LITURGIA DE CONMEMORACIÓN

12 DE NOVIEMBRE 2012
19.30 HS.

CATEDRAL METROPOLITANA DE LA CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES

Av. Rivadavia esq. San Martín
Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires

Reflexiones

S.E.R. Mons. **Jorge M. Bergoglio**
Cardenal Primado de la Rep. Argentina
Arzobispo de Buenos Aires

Rabino **Alejandro Avruj**
Comunidad NCI-Emanu El

Participan

Iglesia Católica Apostólica Romana
Iglesia Evangelica Metodista
Iglesia Luterana Unida
Iglesia Prebiteriana San Andres
Coro de la Soc. Hebraica Argentina

Organizan

Comisión Arquidiocesana de
Ecumenismo y Diálogo Interreligioso
de la Arquidiócesis de Buenos Aires

Comisión de Diálogo
interconfesional
de la Bnai Brith Argentina

Adhesión

Confraternidad
Argentina
Judeo Cristiana

Organized by B'nai B'rith Argentina and the Archdiocesan Commission for Ecumenism.

Reflections featured Cardinal **Jorge Bergoglio** and Rabbi **Alejandro Avruj**, the NCI-EmanuEl community.

Also included representatives of the Evangelical Methodist Churches, United Lutheran Church and Saint Andrew Presbyterian Church.

The memorial liturgy ended with the choir singing the “*Avinue Malkeinu*” that resounded in the barracks of extermination crying out to God for salvation, and then the mutual desire for peace and shalom.

Two testimonies:

The President of B'nai B'rith Argentina, **Mario Wilhelm**, said [to the Jewish News Agency] that *“the setting of the cathedral is so important that thrills”*.

“When we came to ask for some church we found full reception in the cardinal, who offered the Cathedral and said it was an honor to commemorate Kristallnacht here like 5 years ago” said the leader to AJN.

“Our institution always struggle in the fighting against anti-Semitism and it is important to bring brothers for being together celebrating something as tragic as what happened on Kristallnacht”, he added.

Meanwhile, **Claudio Epelman**, executive director of the Latin American Jewish Congress, transmitted to AJN his *"deep emotion because it is absolutely singular the presence of the Archbishop of Buenos Aires Metropolitan Cathedral co-officiating in a ceremony for the Kristallnacht", which "almost has unprecedented in the world" and "reaffirms the links that Cardinal Bergoglio has constructed with the Jewish community and vice versa, as another example of the extraordinary relationship between Catholics and Jews, and of coexistence, in Argentina"*

Speaking to AJN, Rabbi **Avruj** said he was "*deeply honored*" to have been called for "*such an event and done in such a place*". "*It is critical that from the eternal message that our people have, even having traveled so much destruction could learn to respond with construction,*" said the rabbi, to which he added that "*the encounter between different ideologies, thoughts, religions, ways of life is key to build the society in which we live.*"

Asked about today interreligious dialogue, the spiritual leader of the NCI-EmanuEl community stressed that it is something that we have been working for "years" and he said that this meeting is "a proof".

The rabbi also highlighted the work done with the children and teens in a School in the village 31 (very poor) of BA.

"With the guys of the School, the NCI-EmanuEl and Talmud Torah communities we work in educational process and participate in charity projects, and this is a good example because we are pooled with the Church, particularly with Caritas and Father Pepe, and it was there where we met with Bergoglio" said the rabbi.

Avruj stressed that can "vouch that cardinal was in the [poor] village assisting people and is a good way to say it is not just words, not only events and speeches but there are many more things that unite us, that those which separate us"

Two sentences of the speech of **Bergoglio**:

"At that time, many simulated distracted; not only men and women ignored the flesh itself in the death camps, but entire countries, for political convenience looked to other side having ways at its disposal"

"I ask forgiveness for this sin of ignoring our own flesh, which is the flesh of our brothers; the world must be solidary "



Performed the polyphonic choir Argentina Hebrew Society.



Bergoglio with the writer Marcos Aguinis and representatives of the Latin American Jewish Congress



Boris Kalnicki, president of the Argentina B'nai B'rith, was commissioned to guide the ceremony



Co-officiants of the ceremony



First Candle: Shoa Survivors



Second Candle: Jewish and Catholics schools children



Third Candle: Jewish and Catholics schools teens



Fourth Candle: Representatives of organizations that keep the memory of the Shoa



Fifth Candle: Representatives of institutions that promote interfaith dialogue



Sixth Candle: Cardinal Bergoglio and Rabbi Avruj

One of the highlights of the ceremony was the delivery to the Cardinal Bergoglio of a new edition of Siddur (book of daily prayers), as a symbol of those texts that were destroyed on Kristallnacht.









In 2013
Bergoglio
became the
Pope Francis



But his tradition remains in Buenos Aires Cathedral!

CONMEMORACION DEL POGROM ALEMAN de 1938

75° aniversario de la "KRISTALLNACHT"

Liturgia de Conmemoración

12 DE NOVIEMBRE 2013, 18.45 HS.

CATEDRAL METROPOLITANA
DE LA CIUDAD DE
BUENOS AIRES
Rivadavia esq. San Martín,
C.A.B.A.

Reflexiones

Mons. Mario A. Poli
Arzobispo de Buenos Aires

Rabino Abraham Skorka
Rector Seminario Rabínico
Latinoamericano

Participan:

Pastor D. Calvo
Iglesia Luterana Unida
Pastora E. Iglesias
Iglesia de los Discipulos de Cristo
Padre A. Lorente
Iglesia Católica Apostólica Romana
Pastor Sergio Lopez
Iglesia Dinamarquesa
Pastora M. Pons
Iglesia Evangélica Metodista
Rabino J. Shalom
Judaísmo (Bet Am Marc Chagall)

Coro Sharim de la Sociedad Hebrea Argentina
Director: VIVIAN TABUSH

Ayudamos:

Comunidad de San Egidio
Confraternidad Argentina Judeocristiana
Congreso Judío Latinoamericano
Fundación Memoria del Holocausto/Shoa
Movimiento de los Foculares

Organizan



Comisión de Ecumenismo y
Diálogo Interreligioso



B'nai B'rith Argentina

Comisión de
Diálogo Interconfesional



Now the Cardinal Mario Poli follows the Kristallnacht in the Buenos Aires Cathedral

Cardinal Mario Poli,
Archbishop of Buenos Aires,
recalled that *“the doors of
his house are always open
to talk in the language of
mercy and to invoke God”*

 Congreso Judío Latinoamericano
hace 20 minutos

La Catedral Metropolitana de Buenos Aires abrió sus puertas para recordar y conmemorar los pogroms nazis del 9 y 10 de noviembre de 1938, conocidos como la Kristallnacht. Participaron sobrevivientes del Holocausto, quienes encendieron 6 velas, una por cada uno de los seis millones de judíos asesinados por el nazismo.

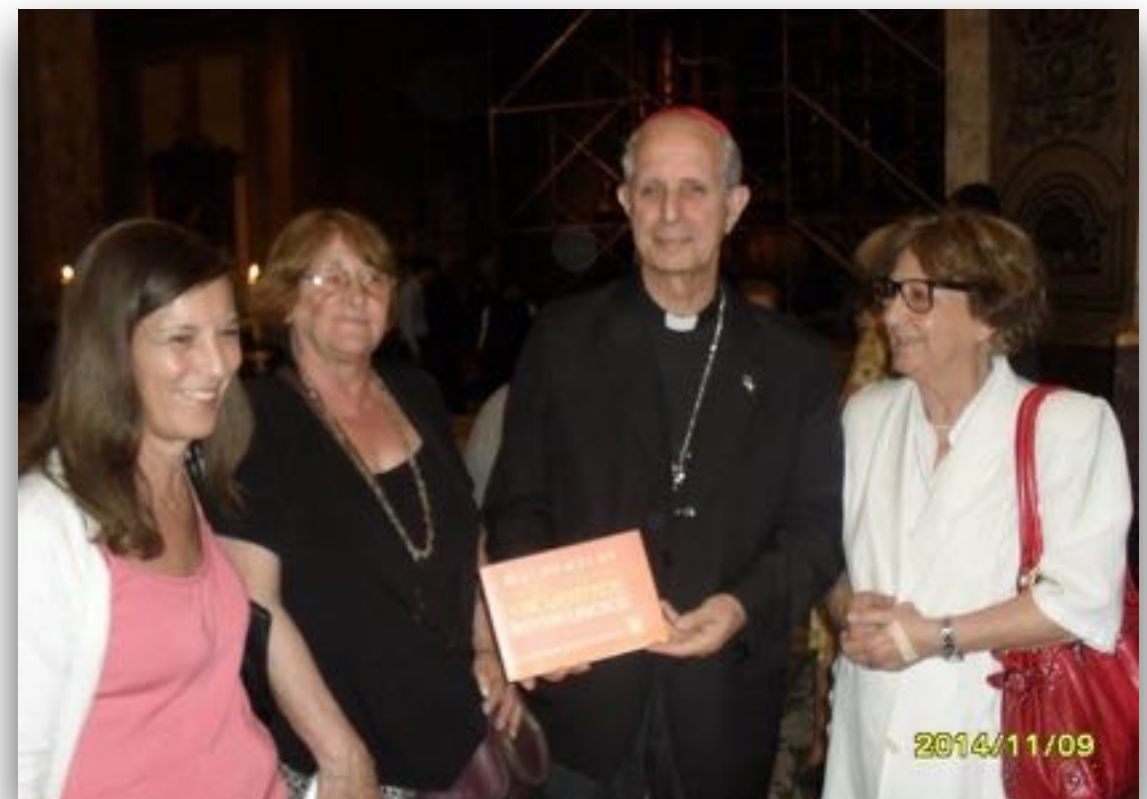
El Cardenal Mario Poli, Arzobispo de Buenos Aires y primado de la Argentina, recordó que las puertas de su casa están siempre abiertas para hablar en el lenguaje de la misericordia y para invocar a Dios. El acto finalizó deseando la paz para todos.



Ya no me gusta · Comentar · Compartir  Compartida 2 veces

Latinamerican Jewish Congress Official Facebook







Bergoglio and the Buenos Aires jewish community



Rabbi Sergio Bergman with Bergoglio



Rabbis Bergman and Avruj with Bergoglio in the Synagogue



Bergoglio visits the AMIA in 2010

He said:

“The attack on the AMIA was one more link in the chain of pain and persecution that the chosen people of God have suffered in history”

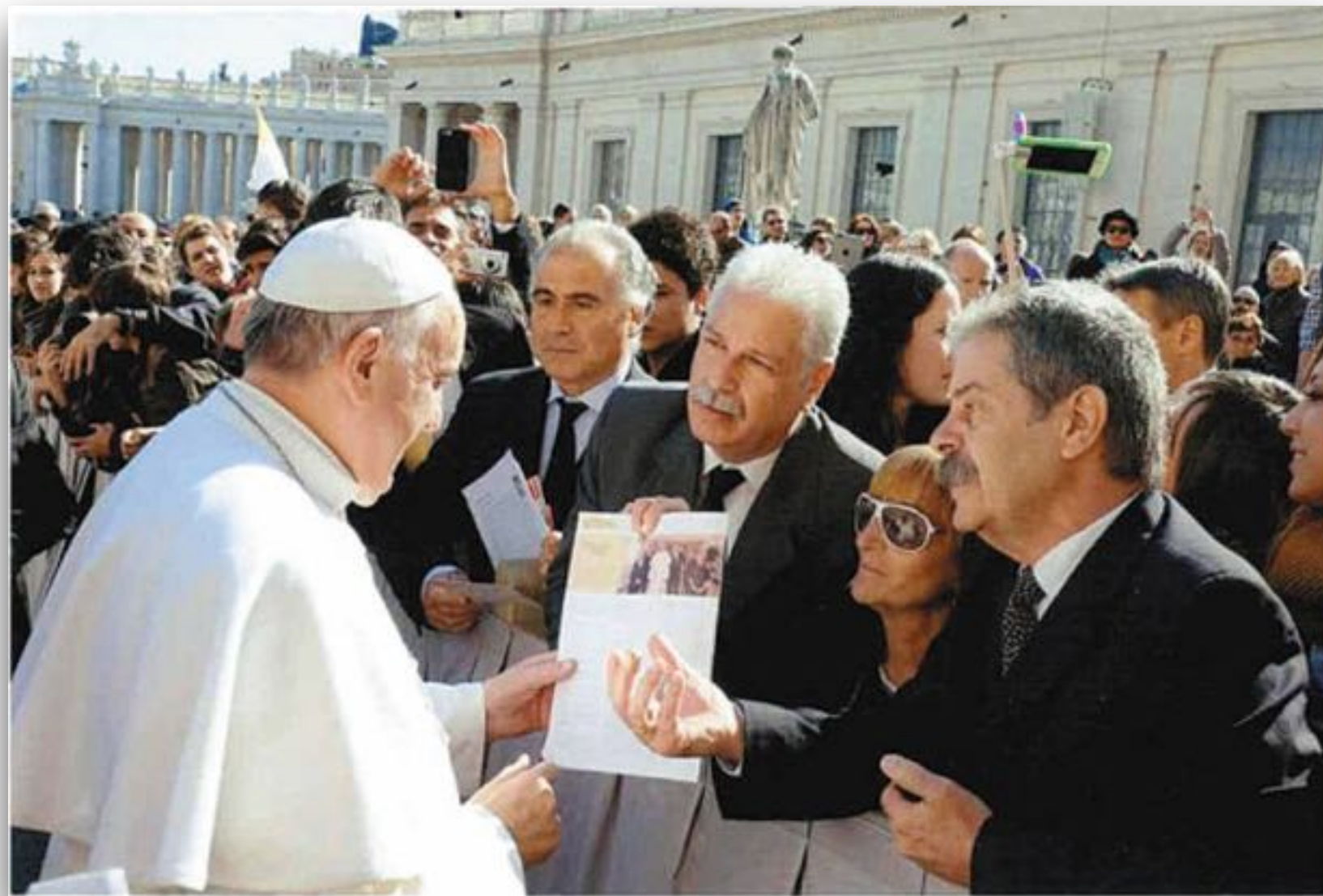


Bergoglio arrived and first prayed silently against the wall of the victims of the AMIA bombing perpetrated on July 18, 1994 and then placed a wreath there.

Two more sentences of his speech:

"I must admit that this is a house of solidarity. It is a backup that we have as a people. Let's do not lose it"

"The AMLA is an example of struggle for the common good. Is a place of blood that evokes a history of blood".

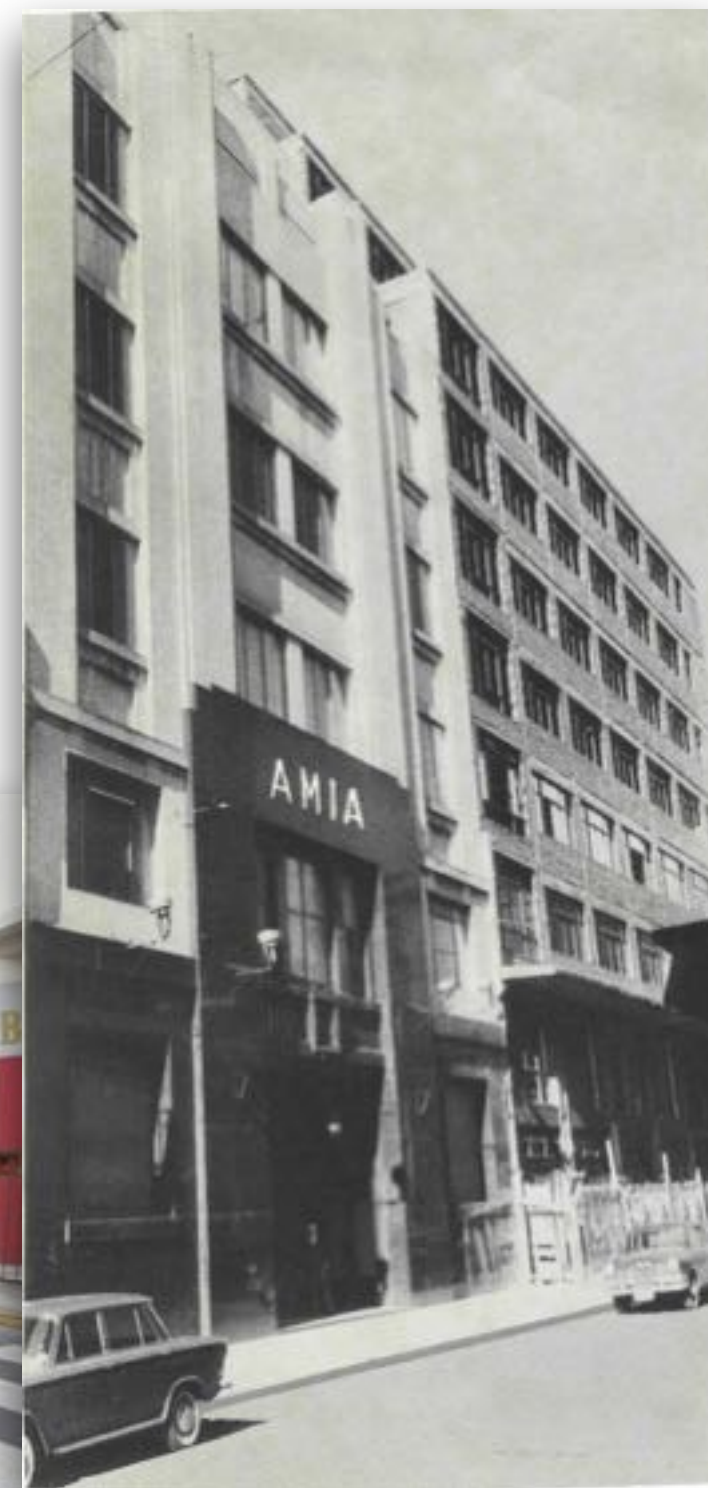


He continues
welcoming the
victims families





AMIA bombing
July 18, 1994



Parchment entitled: *"AMIA, 85 lives, 85 signatures"*



"The under-signers we assume for a moment the representation of each one of those killed in the AMIA bombing happened 11 years ago and on our name, the name of each one of them and the Family and Friends of the victims we urge to each recipients of this paper to fight unswervingly towards gaining a country without impunity, with better justice, with education and health for all, without discrimination or excluded and that we preserve the memory of the things that went wrong for not repeating them. Only then those who no longer are alive, will be able to rest in peace and we take pride in being part of a better and fairer country "



Rabbi Abraham Skorka

Parts of an interview to Skorka:

“Our friendship was born many years ago when he made me a joke because his soccer team had won mine.”

“I was not surprised that the first decision by the Pope was reach out to the chief rabbi of Rome with a letter in which he said: “I hope intensely to contribute into progress in the relations between Jews and Catholics known from Vatican II in a renewed spirit of collaboration.”

“George is now called Francis. But he is the same. If he had intimate relations with the Jewish community in Argentina, with all the rabbis and a special relationship with me... Why he will not have it with all the Jewish world? He is going to remain the same.”

“He is an austere person, a person of integrity, with a deep search for God ... Very sensitive, but as a leader, he knows very well to combine leadership, strength, without losing sensitivity.”

“He told me that a pope should set an example of austerity.”

“He had a very significant gesture last year when the Catholic University of Argentina, of which he is one of the most important authorities, I was awarded an honorary doctorate degree. There were thousands of people in the auditorium. It was he who gave me the diploma, and there was no microphone. We were just me and him. There were thousands around us, but he spoke to me in a low voice. And before he gives me the diploma said me, “You do not know how I dreamed of this moment.” Then he gave me a hug, that neither I realized at that moment, I was flying through the air. When I saw it again on YouTube, that hug says it all. We used walking together, and always the question was: “Well, what do we do next?” To leave a testimony to try to look for channels of understanding and dialogue really committed and deep.”

Skorka receives from Bergoglio,
“Honoris Causa Doctorate”
of the Argentine Catholic University



TV show:

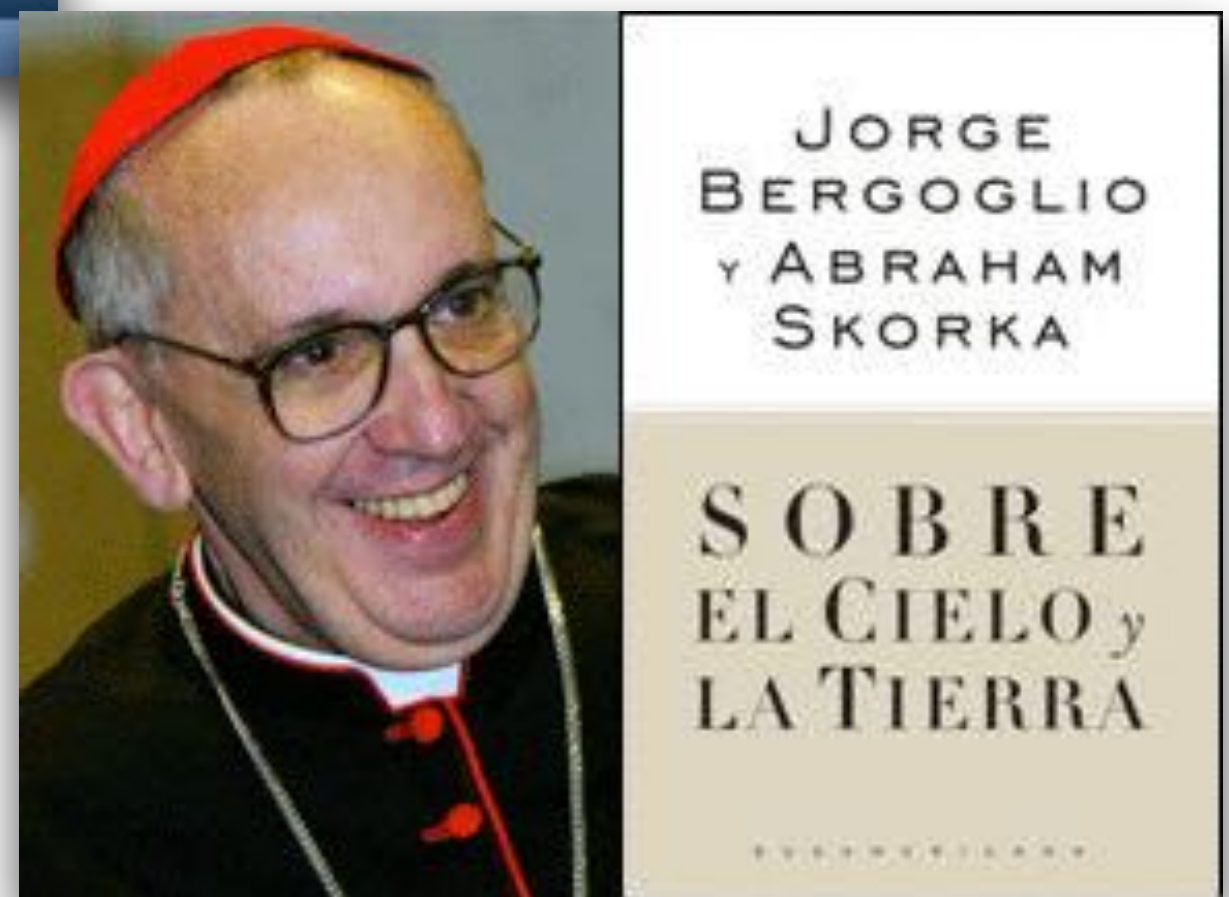
“Bible, living dialogue”





*“About the heaven
and the earth”*

The book was made of recorded
conversations in many days





Delivery of Maimonides Award of Interreligious Dialogue



The day he assumed as the
Pope Francis





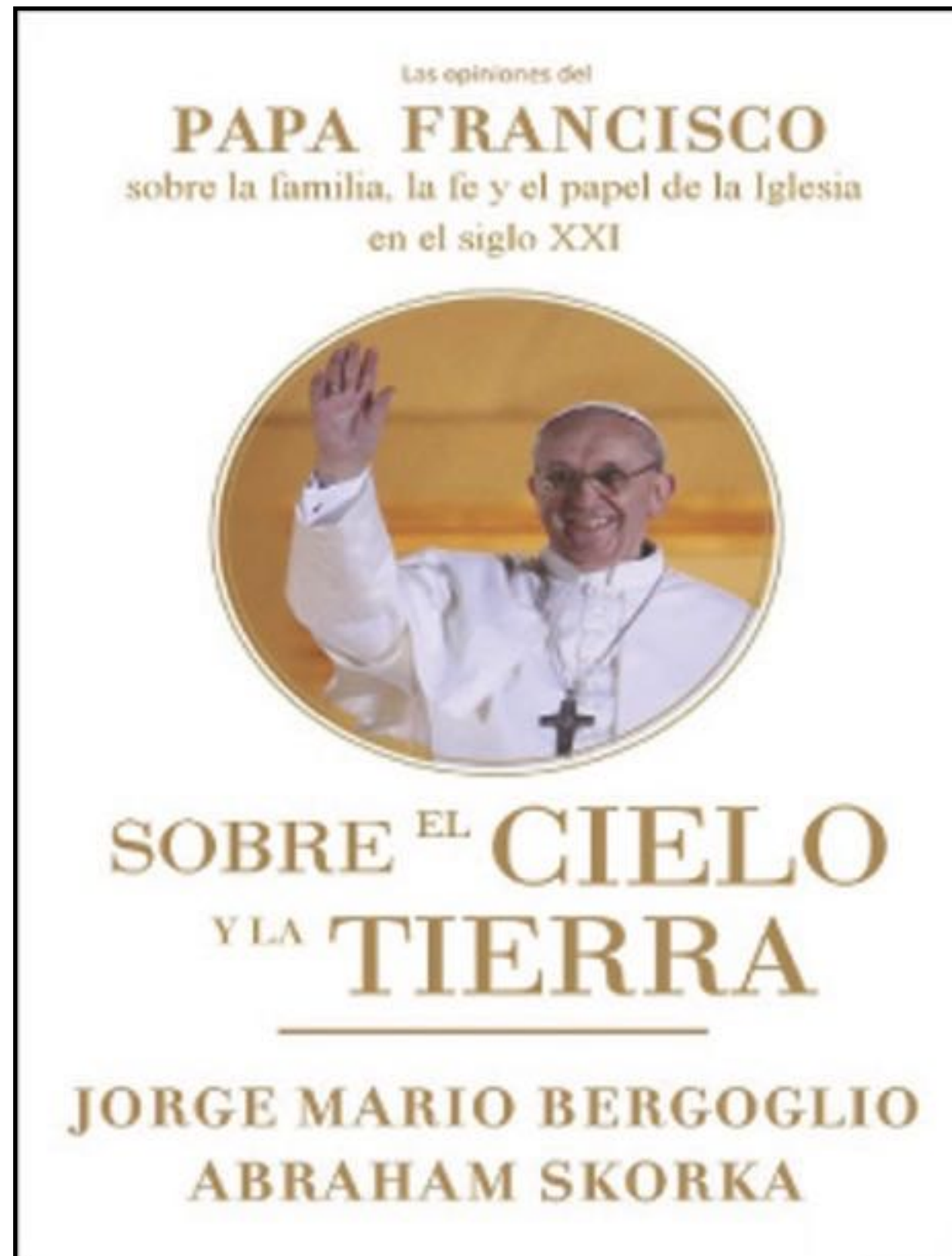
In his residence:
Santa Martha







New edition
of the book





In the Kotel







Kissing the hands of Shoa survivors
at the Yad Vashem Museum

Parts of the speech in that place:

"Adam, where are you? Where are you, man? Where have you been? In this place, the Holocaust memorial, echoes this question of God: Adam, where are you?

*This question contains all the pain of the Father
who has lost her son "*

"Who has corrupted you? Who has disfigured you? Who has infected you the presumption of appropriating good and evil? Who has convinced you that you are God? You have not only tortured and killed your brothers, but you have offered in sacrifice to yourself, because you have erected in God "

*"From the land rises a shy moan: Have mercy on us,
Lord. We take the dishonor on the face, the shame.*

*It has come upon us an evil
as never happened under heaven ".*

*"Remember us in your mercy. Give us the grace to
be ashamed of what we, as men, have been able to
do, ashamed of this maximum idolatry, had
despised and destroyed our flesh, the flesh that you
molded from mud, you turned to life with your
breath of life. Lord, Never again, never again!"*



Synagogue speech

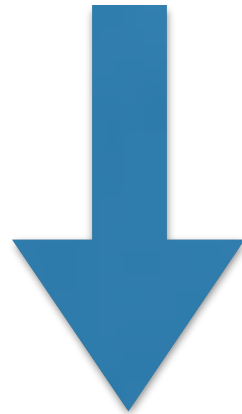
2004

Where are you?

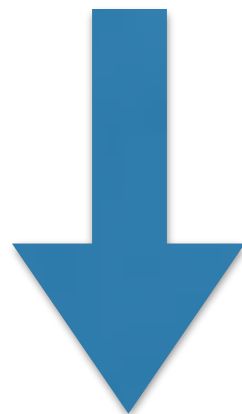


Where am I?

Where is your brother?



I do not know



*Perhaps am I my
brother's keeper?*

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength." (Deut 6: 4-5) and "you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord"

Lev 19:18

Mark 12:28-34: “Then one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, perceiving that He had answered them well, asked Him, “Which is the **first commandment** of all?”

Jesus answered him, “The first of all the commandments is: ‘Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God, the LORD is one. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This is the **first** commandment. And the **second**, like it, is this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

There is no other commandment greater than these.”

So the scribe said to Him, “Well said, Teacher. You have spoken the truth, for there is one God, and there is no other but He. And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Now when Jesus saw that he answered wisely, He said to him, “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up"

Deut. 6:6-7

“God wanted my route partner more intimate in the dialogue was the today Pope Francis. His commitment to interreligious dialogue is obvious and manifest. The dialogue we understood not merely as acts of sympathy for each other, but the making of actions that require courage and daring, for trying to make, in our possibilities, a turning point in history.

The book of dialogues that we wrote together, the recorded TV shows, the shared trip to the Holy Land, and so much more are evidence of our efforts to fulfill the commitment we understood that we should assume. Humble offerings for building a human reality of peace, spirituality and God.”

Rabbi Abraham Skorka
Rector of the Latin American Rabbinical Seminary



Working together
in Buenos Aires



Education

Knowing the other

Una clase para futuros sacerdotes que se cursa en la sinagoga

Viernes 04 de junio de 2004 | **Publicado en edición impresa**

Un hecho que registra pocos antecedentes

En un templo hebreo, 18 seminaristas asistieron a un curso sobre religión judía

Por **Jorge Rouillon** | LA NACION



Los seminaristas, con el tradicional kipá, escuchan atentamente las enseñanzas del rabino, en el templo de la Congregación Israelita. Foto: Soledad Aznarez

Un renovado interés por ahondar en el conocimiento de las huellas judías en el cristianismo se observa hoy en instituciones universitarias de inspiración católica.

Un ejemplo es lo que ocurrió hace pocos días en la sede de la Congregación Israelita de la República Argentina, en Libertad 769. En un hecho que registra pocos antecedentes, 18 seminaristas, un laico y una monja -todos alumnos de Teología de la Universidad Católica Argentina (UCA)- asistieron a una

clase sobre el judaísmo en la que participaron activamente.

"Es la primera vez que entro en una sinagoga; es conocer a nuestros hermanos mayores", comentó Nora Kviatkovsky, de 31 años, religiosa de Jesús María y alumna de teología, en diálogo con LA NACION.

En el altar de la sinagoga, el rabino Angel Kreiman-Brill mostró los rollos de la Torá a los estudiantes, casi todos seminaristas porteños, de la Patagonia y de los agustinos recoletos. Cursan 5° año en la Facultad de Teología de la UCA, en Villa Devoto, donde el rabino da clases de Diálogo Interreligioso. Ya lo hizo en los años 90, invitado por el cardenal Antonio Quarracino.



“A renewed interest for the deepening in the knowledge of Jewish traces in Christianity is seen today in universities of Catholic inspiration.

An example is what happened a few days ago at the Synagogue of the Jewish Congregation of Argentina. In a fact that records few antecedents, 18 seminarians, a layman and nun -all students of theology at the Catholic University of Argentina (UCA)- attended a class on Judaism in which they actively participated.”



Rabbi Jonas Shalom teaching judaism to the youth
in a parish of Buenos Aires



Sharing the Seder Pesah



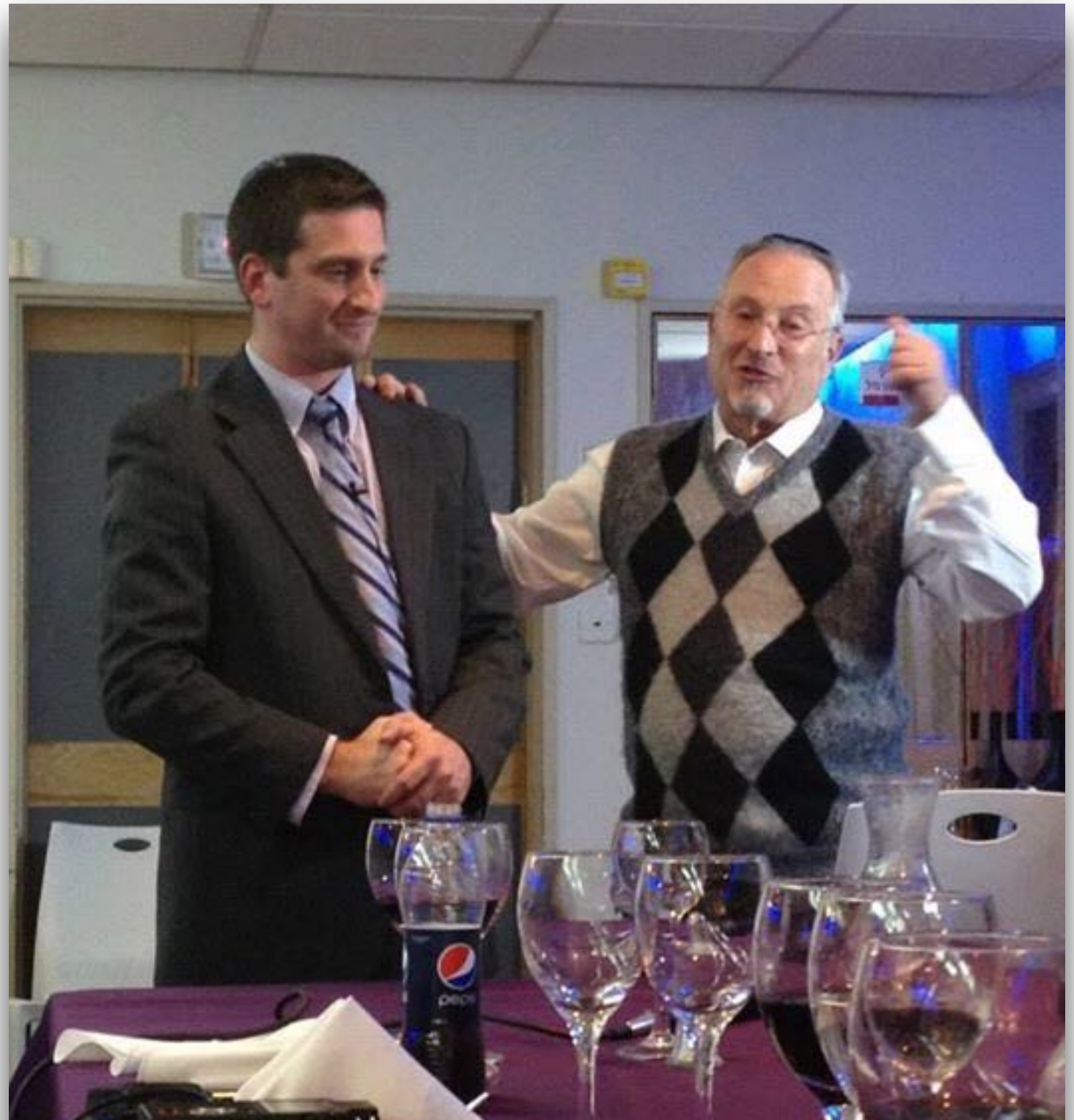
Catholics
Priests traveling to Israel,
invited by the Center
for the Jewish Christian
Understanding and
Cooperation



David Nekrutman

Rabbi Angel Kreiman-Brill

Rabbi Shlomo Riskin



Rabbi Eugene Korn





Prayer

Rabbi Daniel Zang









Celebrating the Mass at Ecce Homo convent, Old City



Charity

To be brother for the other



Rabbi Jonas Shalom and Fr. Sebastián Risso

CONGRESO JUDIO LATINOAMERICANO



CONGRESO JUDAICO LATINOAMERICANO

On the Christmas' eve and as a reflection of social commitment that Jews and Catholics are carrying out, Rabbi Shalom Jonah and Father Sebastian Risso toured the village of Lugano in the City of Buenos Aires, where they performed recreational activities with children

- carrying supplies for emergency room
- managing improvement for the village
 - food to the popular kitchens



So...

EDUCATION

PRAYER

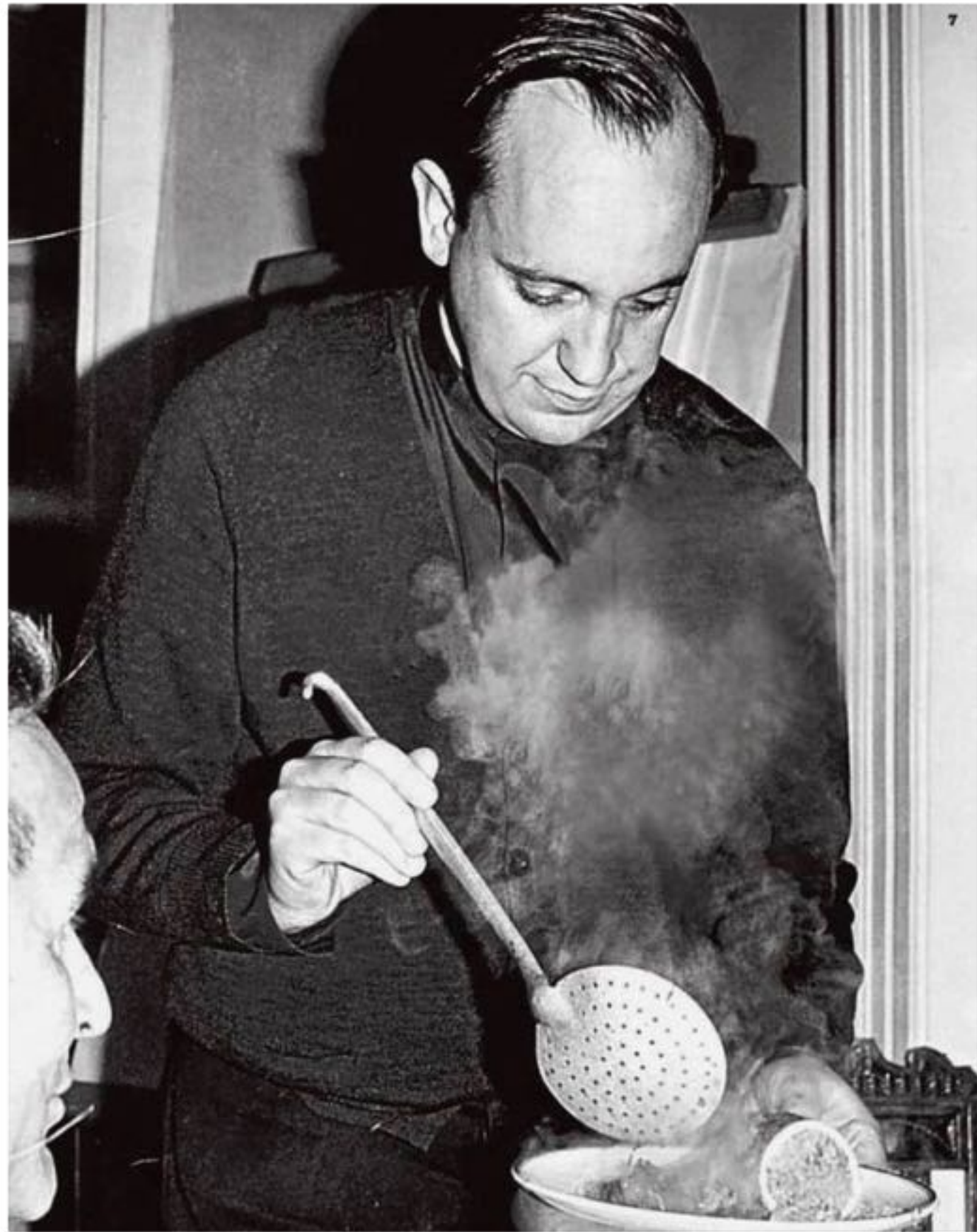
CHARITY

TOGETHER

Those, of course, were not made up by Bergoglio...

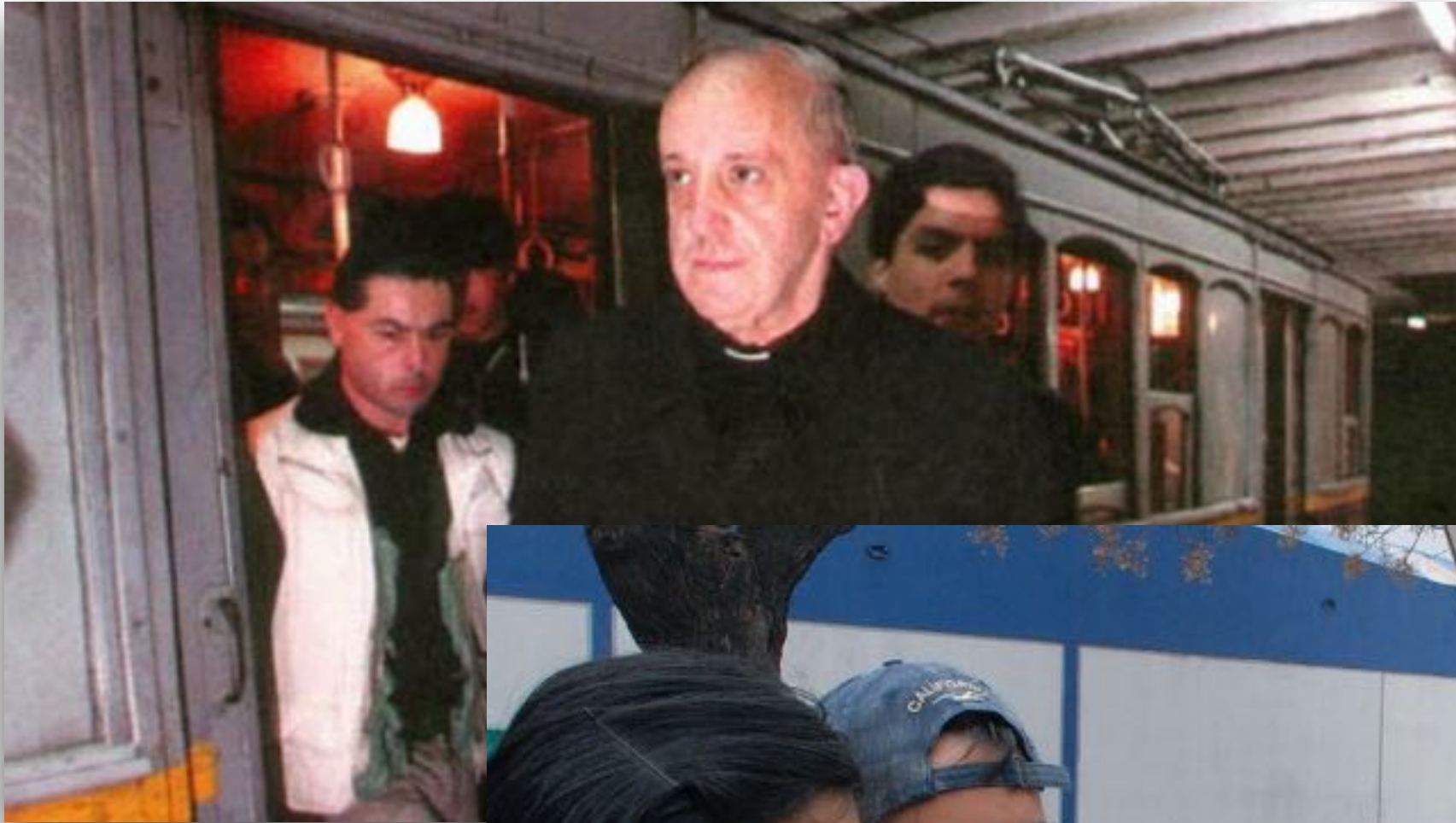


But himself gives us the example





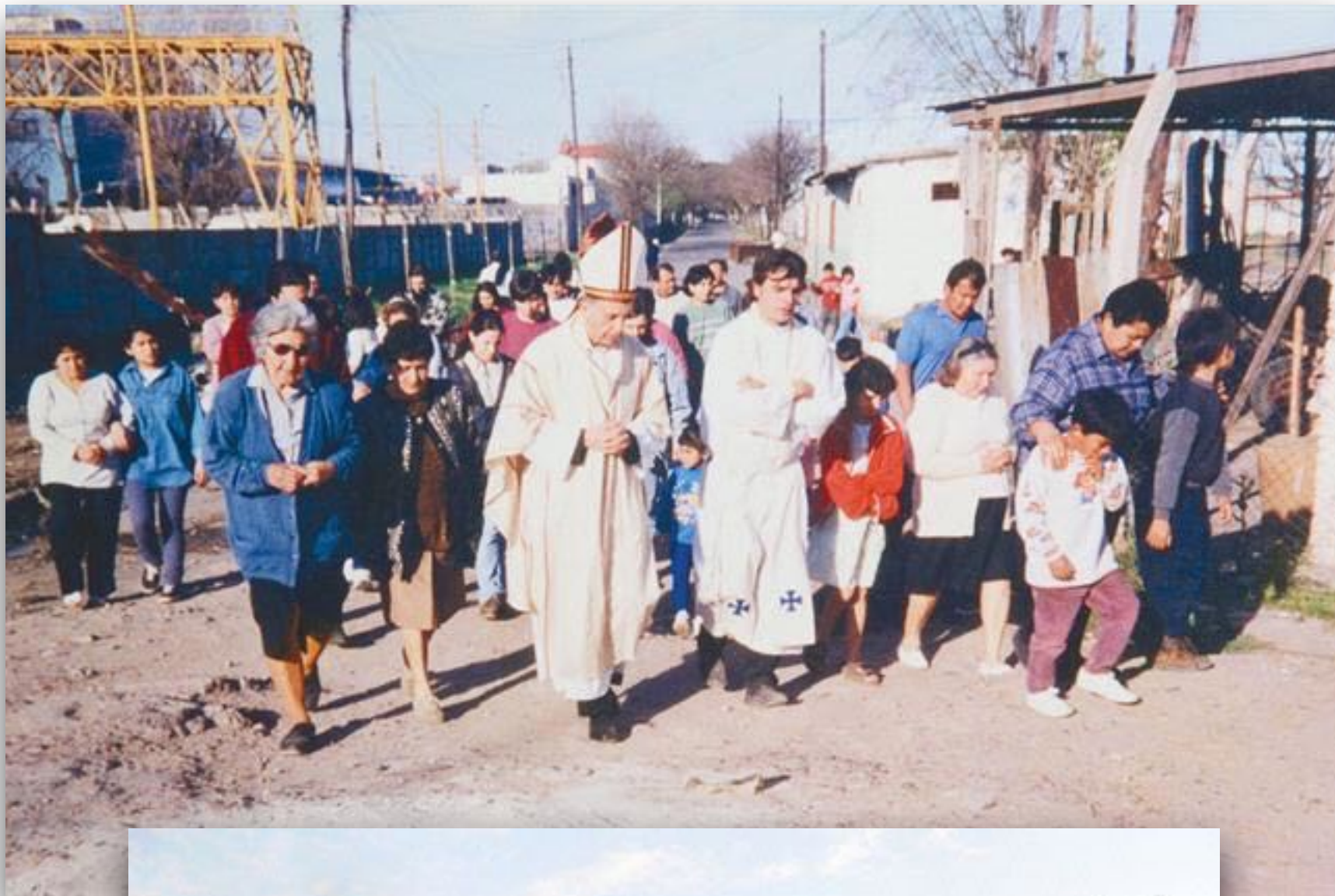






Visiting poor villages







In commitment to dignity and against all forms of slavery





Visiting prisoners





Hospitals



And he maintains that as Pope

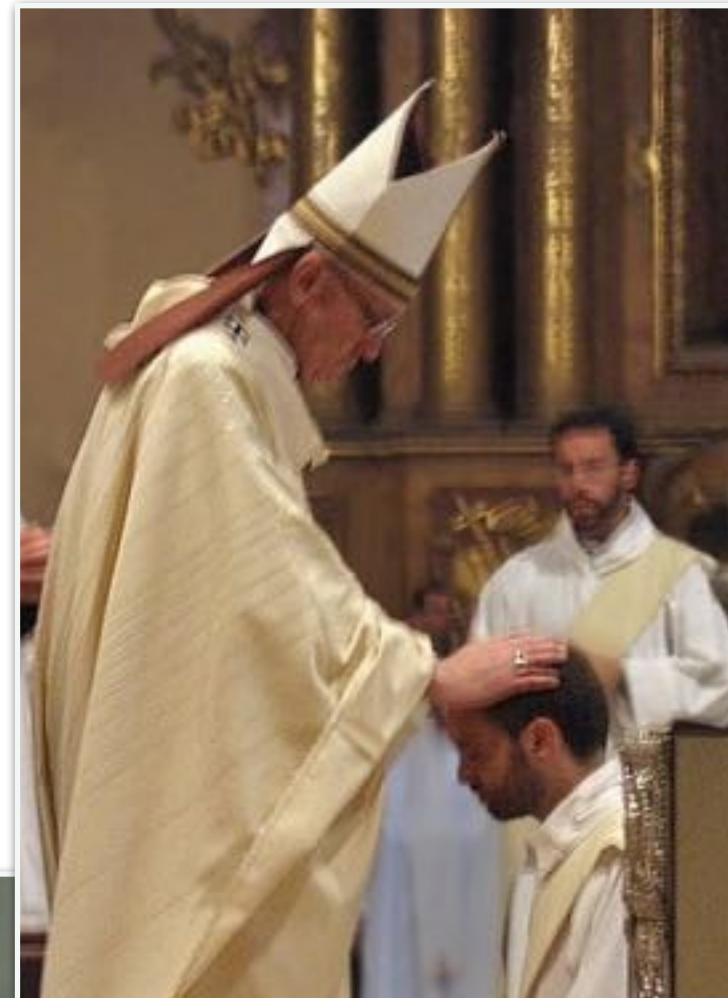




Surprise visit to a poor village in Rome



Like his friend Rabbi Skorka said: *“he remains the same”*



Same miter



Same ring



Same pectoral cross



Coat and lema as archbishop and pope

MISERANDO ATQUE ELIGENDO

Jesus saw a man named Matthew sitting at the table of collection of taxes, and said, "Follow me". He saw him more with the inner look of his love than with the body eyes. Jesus saw the publican, and saw him with mercy and choosing him, (miserando atque eligendo), and said to him follow me, "Follow me", meaning said, "Imitate me." He said, "Follow me", rather than with his steps, with his way of acting. Because, who says he is always in Christ must walk continuously as he walked.

St. Bede the Venerable, presbiterus; homily 21