

Is Pope Francis next to be summoned to Trump Tower for his views on global warming?

Notebook: "Pilgrimage- My Search for the Real Pope Francis."

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Book Review:

Maria Shriver's Architects of Change hosted Mark Shriver, at a community meeting at St. Monica Church, Santa Monica, CA December 8, 2016; author of "Pilgrimage- My Search for the Real Pope Francis."

Pope Francis at the Intersection of Faith and Politics, and Justice and Economic Opportunity

Overshadowed by the nation's presidential election having resulted in a dramatic tact and somber tenor for those opposing such possibilities as Exxon's CEO Rex Tillerson for Secretary of State, Mark Shriver rebuked a participant at the mic airing her weariness of the incoming administration - assuring her 'Republicans aren't monsters.'

Shriver's father was Sergeant Shriver, most known - amongst a long list of populist achievements, for his founding of the Peace Corps. His mother Eunice, was a spirited champion and likewise spiritual devotee alongside her husband Sergeant, most known for her prized Special Olympics. Eunice was a Kennedy, the most famous Catholic family in the world; with John Kennedy, having taken the oath of office as the first Catholic President of the United States.

And now our nation sets itself upon the canvas of a remarkedly distinguished papal leader such that he alone has taken the name of his holiness, who did forsake his father's material riches and earthly companion expected in a society organized as Noah's Ark- to live a life of celibacy consumed only by the love of the divine, as that of St. Francis.

Jorge Bergoglio is his earthly given name. Given Shriver's own soul searching aside from a sharpened shift in global position of a nation ranked super power status, what role will a Super Pope play at the intersection of faith and politics, and justice and economic opportunity?

Shriver tests his own faith in his book "Pilgrimage- My Search for the Real Pope Francis" by examination through intellectually honest means, the socio-political

landscape that gave rise to what Shriver refers to and makes the case for 'the real deal.' That is, Pope Francis, as Shriver details and presents from childhood to present in glossy photos, is providing global leadership by selfless example.

Shriver visited the modest home that now Pope Francis grew up in the Flores barrio of Buenos Aires, Argentina; the Basilica of San Jose de Flores where Bergoglio made the decision to change course from chemist to devotee of God, and to the bare bones bedroom he slept in Colegio Maximo de San Jose in San Miguel where Bergoglio spent 30 years in service before a surprise calling to the papacy.

Juan and Evita Perone ruled Argentina under Peronism when Bergoglio was just a boy like any other playing in the streets and attending school, in a country where there was no separation between church and state and where Evita's book, "La Razon de Mi Vida" or as translated to English as "You are my Reason for Living," was mandatory classroom reading. This landscape surely shaped how comfortable it is for Pope Francis to as Shriver depicts, as a great and humble man to the extent that he would wash the feet of juvenile delinquents and place his hands on a man with genetic sores so severe the poor fellow's physical state rivals the elephant man.

Though climate change is not highlighted in the book, Pope Francis has spoken out about the need to be watchful of what could be the titration of the Earth's atmospheric carbon content beyond the tipping point. And now we know why, given his prior embarking upon his initial career path as a chemist while working at the Hicketier-Bachmann chemistry laboratory in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Shriver refers to young Bergoglio as having been captivated by science, and as almost as passionate about it as he is about religion.

From living quarters to wardrobe to dinner table and travel, Pope Francis indeed passes the test of what we would expect the lifestyle of a patron saint making universal love and togetherness under God the focus. Indeed the first Jesuit Pope may be that living saint to protect the people of the earth and the planet as the rock upon which those of us who are understandably nervous about the incoming administration might cling to because as Shriver calls it, Bergoglio is the merging of logic and faith.

Shriver's master notion is that the Pope is bringing people together to connect with each other to find common ground. How we treat each other and who we admire and why and how that reflects upon us in society is depicted in the leadership we choose and where our leaders are taking us.

A special treat is certainly in store for readers and soul seekers alike who follow the rosary beads of this book to its last page. See you there.