

Has the Church of Christ Lost Its Head?



First: Who is the “Daddy”?

Matthew 23:6 - 10 — They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, greetings in the market places, and to be called by men, “Rabbi, Rabbi.” But you, **do not be called “Rabbi”**; for One is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are all brethren. **Do not call anyone on earth your father**; for One is your Father, He who is in heaven. **And do not be called teachers**; for One is your Teacher, the Christ.

Do NOT Be Called:

“Rabbi” — “**One** is your Teacher, the Christ, and you are **all brethren.**”

“Father” — “**One** is your Father, **He who is in heaven.**” **Mark 14:36**

“Teacher” — “**One** is your Teacher, **the Christ**”



*“Pope” is Latin for “Father”!!!
To call a man on Earth “Pope”
is to refer to him as if he were
GOD! = Blasphemy
Mark 2:5 - 7*

Second: Who is the “Rock” of the Church??

Matthew 16:13 - 16:

When **Jesus** came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, “**Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?**” So they said, “Some say **John the Baptist**, some **Elijah**, and others **Jeremiah** or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “**But who do you say that I am?**” **Simon Peter** answered and said, **You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.**”

Matthew 16:17 - 20:

Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

Matthew 16:17 - 20:

Jesus answered and said to him, “Blessed are you, **Simon Bar-Jonah**, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. And I also say to you that **you are *Petros*** and on this ***petra*** I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ.

1. *Jesus had said to “Simon Peter”*

John 1:40, “You are Simon the son of Jonah. [*ho hues iona*]

You shall be called **Cephas** [*kephas*] which is translated, **A Stone** [*petros*”

John 1:42

- a. Why did Jesus give Peter the name “**Petros**” in this passage, and NOT the feminine form “**petra**” to relieve any confusion later in

Matthew 16:18?

b. Jesus, not Peter, *is* referred to as **petra** in the New Testament:

Matthew 16:18: “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this **rock** I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.”

Romans 9:33: As it is written, “Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and **rock** of offence, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame” (quoting from **Isaiah 8:14; 28:16**).

1 Peter 2:8: “A stone of stumbling and a **rock** of offense.” They stumble, **being disobedient to the word**, to which they also were appointed.

1 Corinthians 10:4: For they drank of that spiritual **Rock** that followed them, and **that Rock was Christ**.

2. IF this clearly taught Peter's superiority over all the other Apostles, then:

a. Why were they still disputing the issue later?

Matthew 20:20 - 28

b. How were James, Cephas & John *all* "pillars"? **Galatians 2:9**

c. Then was Paul the Gentile "Pope"?

Galatians 2:7 - 10

d. How was the church of Christ "built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief *cornerstone*?" **Ephesians 2:20**

Third: How is a “Pope” Selected?

IF Peter was selected by Jesus as the 1st
“Pope”, (BUT he was NOT!) **THEN** all He did
was “speak” it true **Matthew 16:18 - 19**

IF the “Pope” is the “Vicar of Christ on earth”,
THEN why can't the “Pope” select his
successor by speaking it true?????

**AND WHY DOES IT TAKE THIS PROCESS
TODAY?**

Who selects a pope?

Popes have been selected by the [Roman Catholic Church](#)'s college of cardinals since the early 12th century. This was established as official policy of the Church at the *Lateran Council III* in 1179 CE.

The pope is elected in a process called a “*conclave*”. The word “conclave” is derived from two Latin words which mean “*with a key*”. It referred to the past practice of locking cardinals in a somewhat confined space — lately the Sistine Chapel — and not allowing them to emerge until they have elected a new pope.

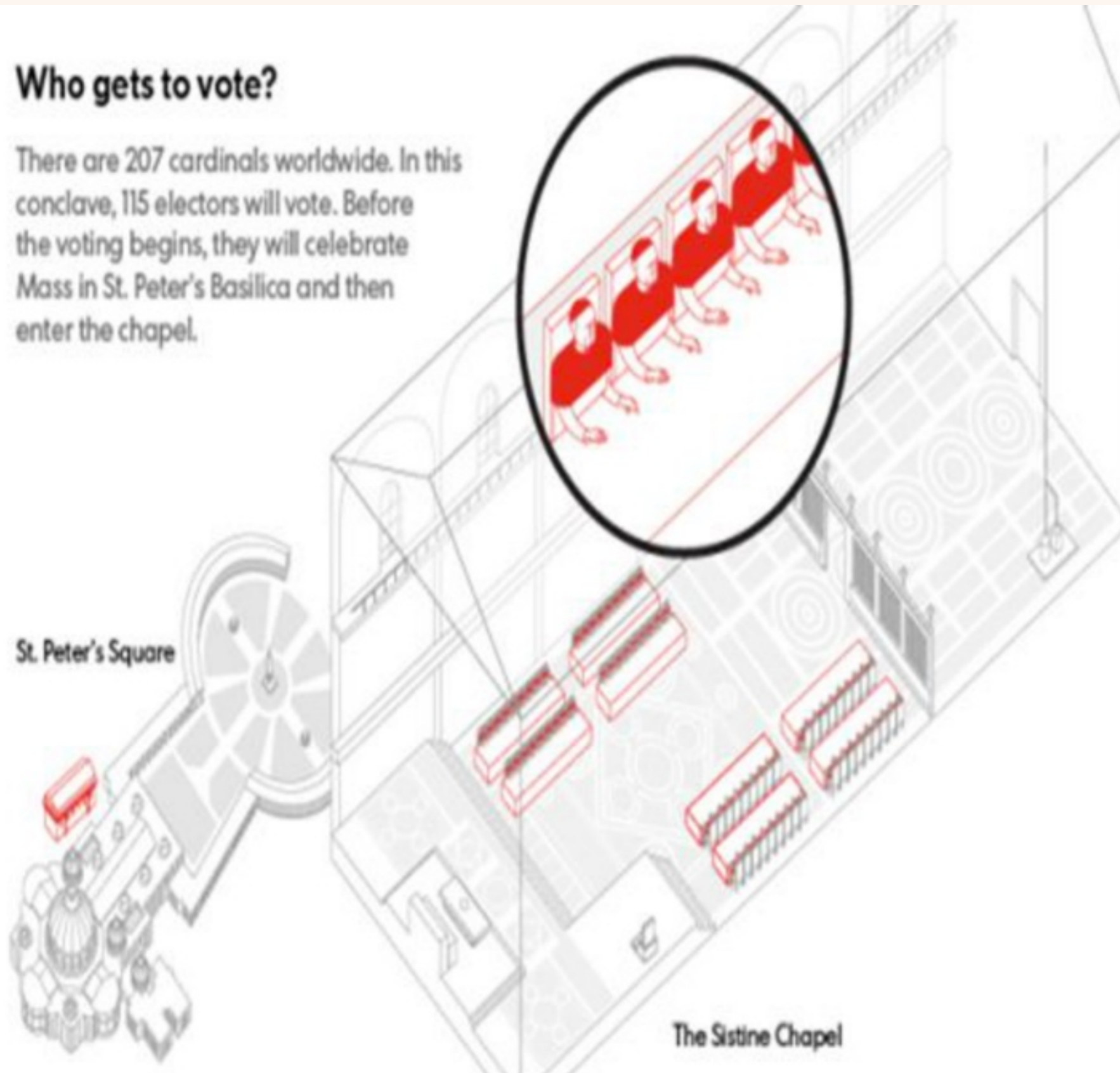
Who selects a pope?

On 1996-FEB-22, Pope John Paul II updated the rules governing the conclave. The cardinals will no longer be confined to the Sistine Chapel, day and night, throughout the entire election process. **They will be assigned comfortable living quarters in suitable locations within the Vatican.**

Only those members of the *College of Cardinals* who have not reached their 80th birthday are allowed in the conclave. They are all men because **women are not even allowed to be ordained as priests** in the Church. They currently constitute **a group of about 120. Almost all have been personally selected by Pope John II.** Conclaves have a history of selecting unexpected cardinals as the next pope.

Who gets to vote?

There are 207 cardinals worldwide. In this conclave, 115 electors will vote. Before the voting begins, they will celebrate Mass in St. Peter's Basilica and then enter the chapel.

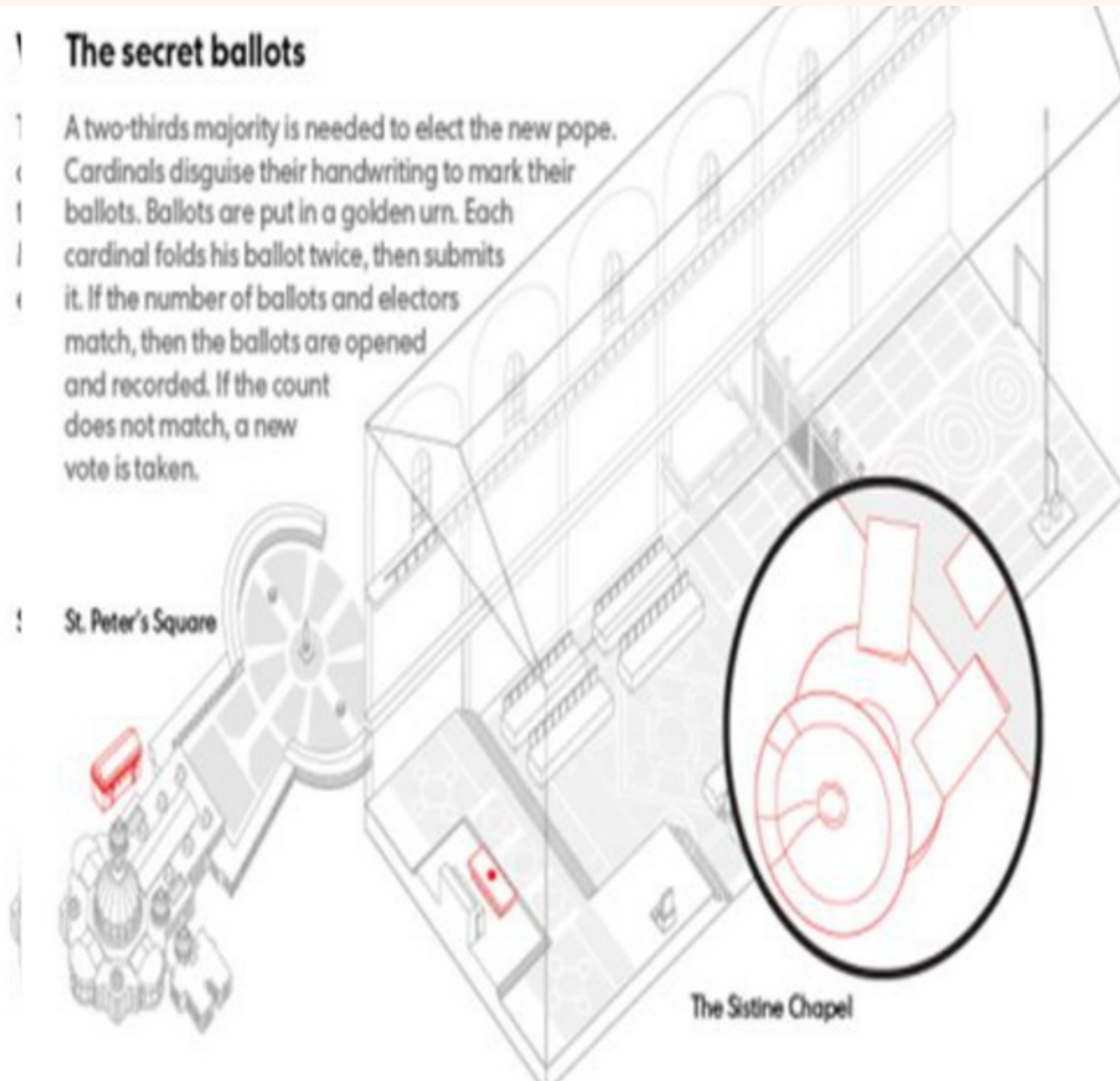


The secret ballots

A two-thirds majority is needed to elect the new pope. Cardinals disguise their handwriting to mark their ballots. Ballots are put in a golden urn. Each cardinal folds his ballot twice, then submits it. If the number of ballots and electors match, then the ballots are opened and recorded. If the count does not match, a new vote is taken.

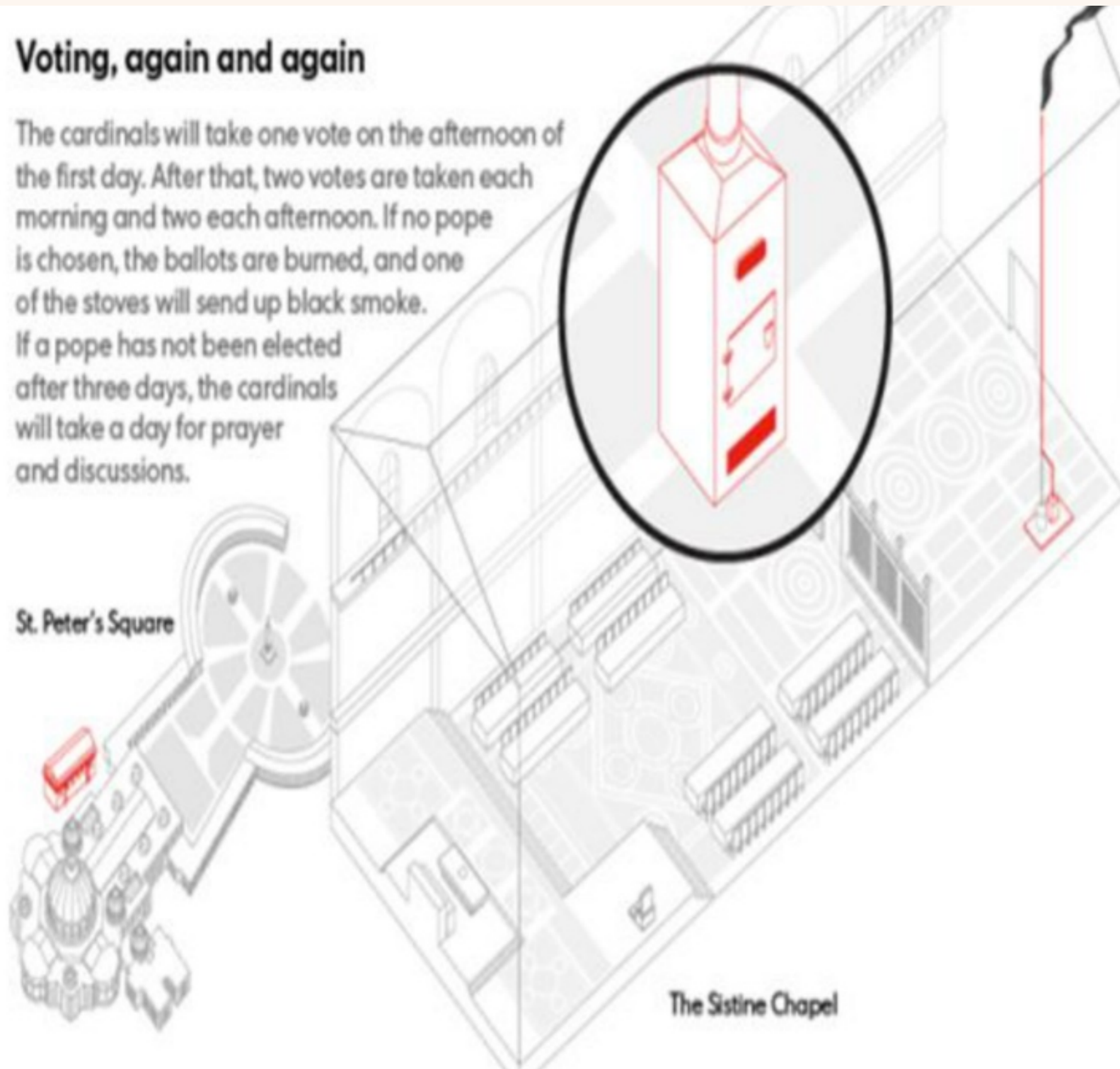
St. Peter's Square

The Sistine Chapel



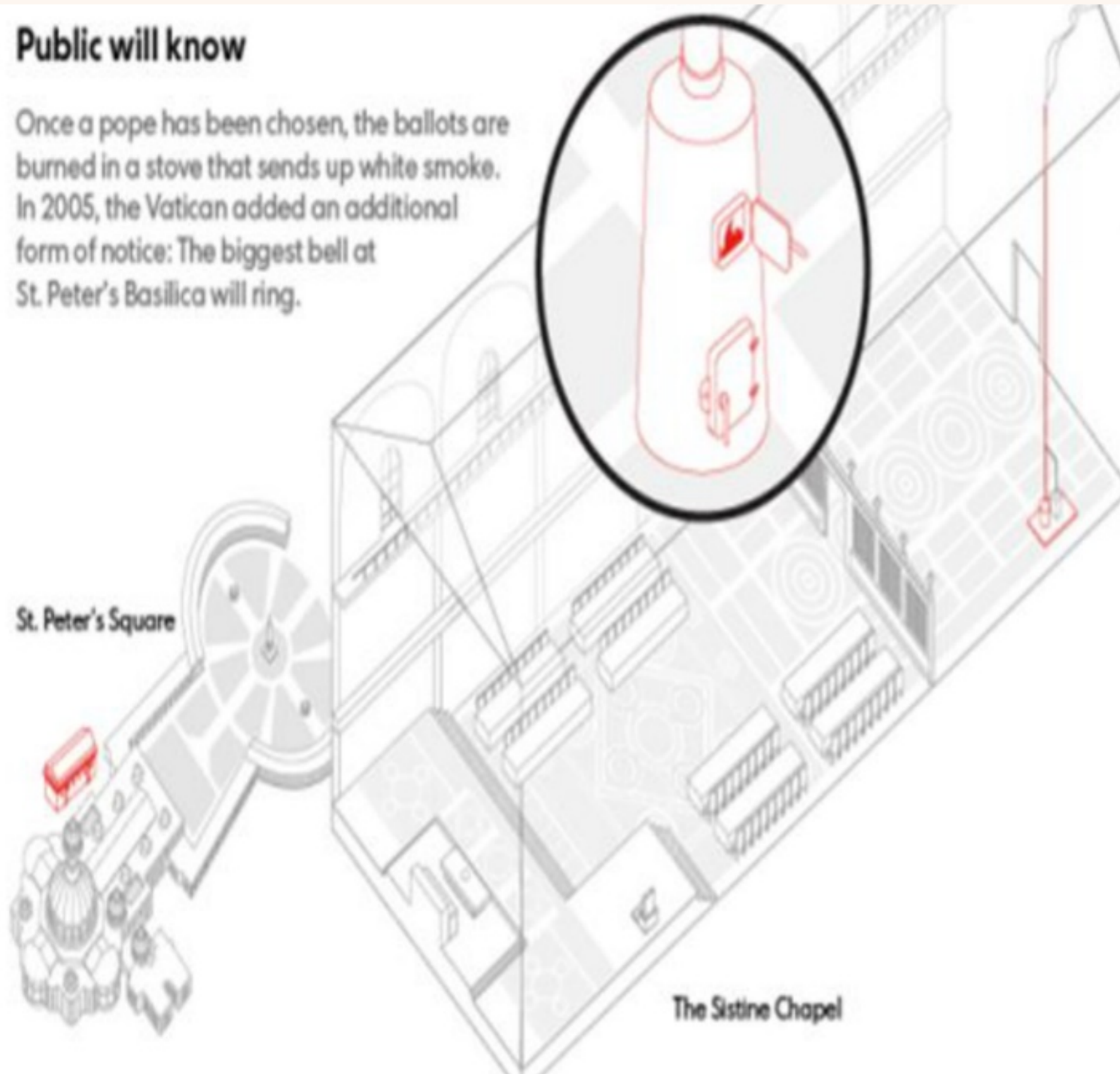
Voting, again and again

The cardinals will take one vote on the afternoon of the first day. After that, two votes are taken each morning and two each afternoon. If no pope is chosen, the ballots are burned, and one of the stoves will send up black smoke. If a pope has not been elected after three days, the cardinals will take a day for prayer and discussions.



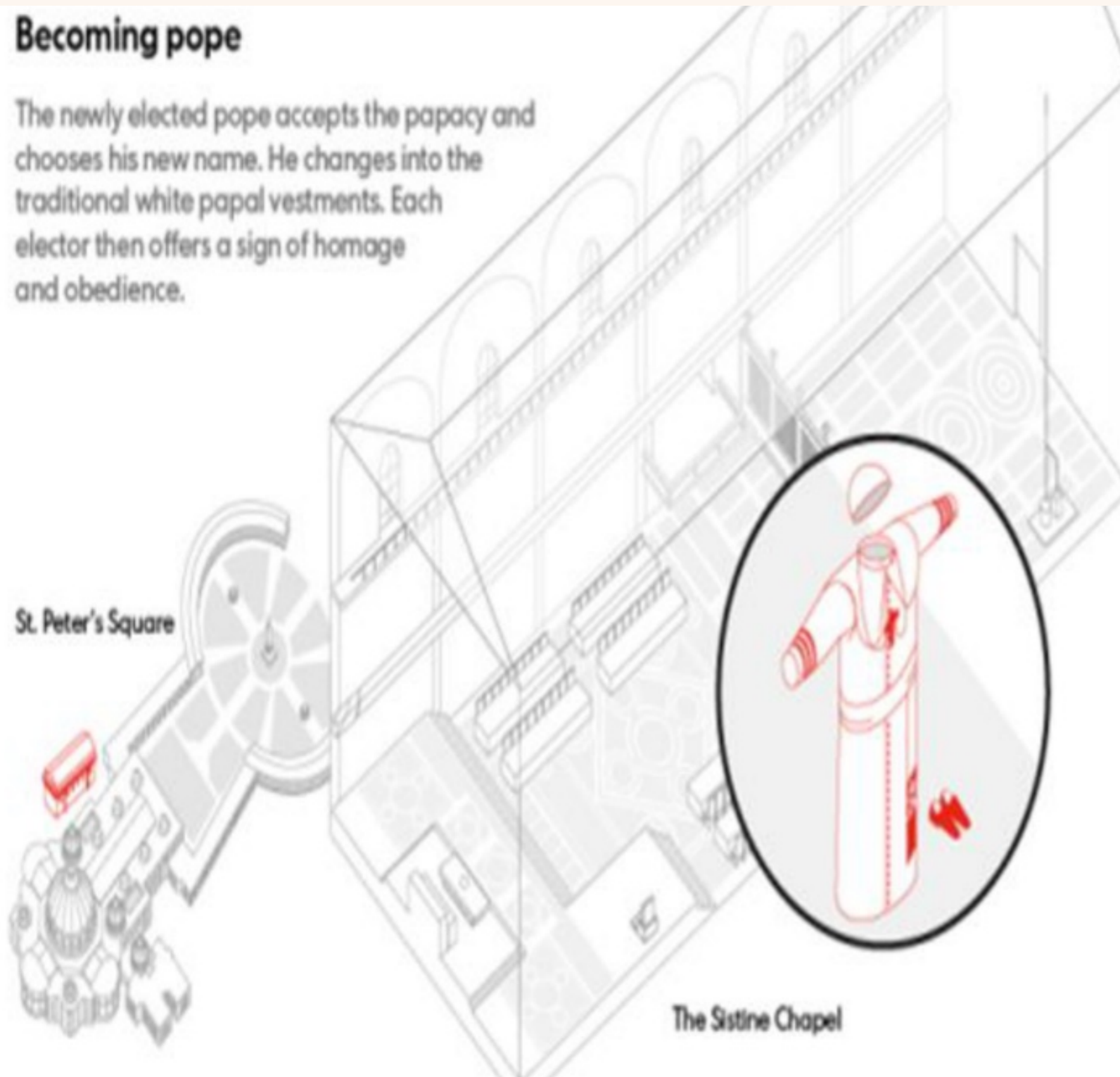
Public will know

Once a pope has been chosen, the ballots are burned in a stove that sends up white smoke. In 2005, the Vatican added an additional form of notice: The biggest bell at St. Peter's Basilica will ring.



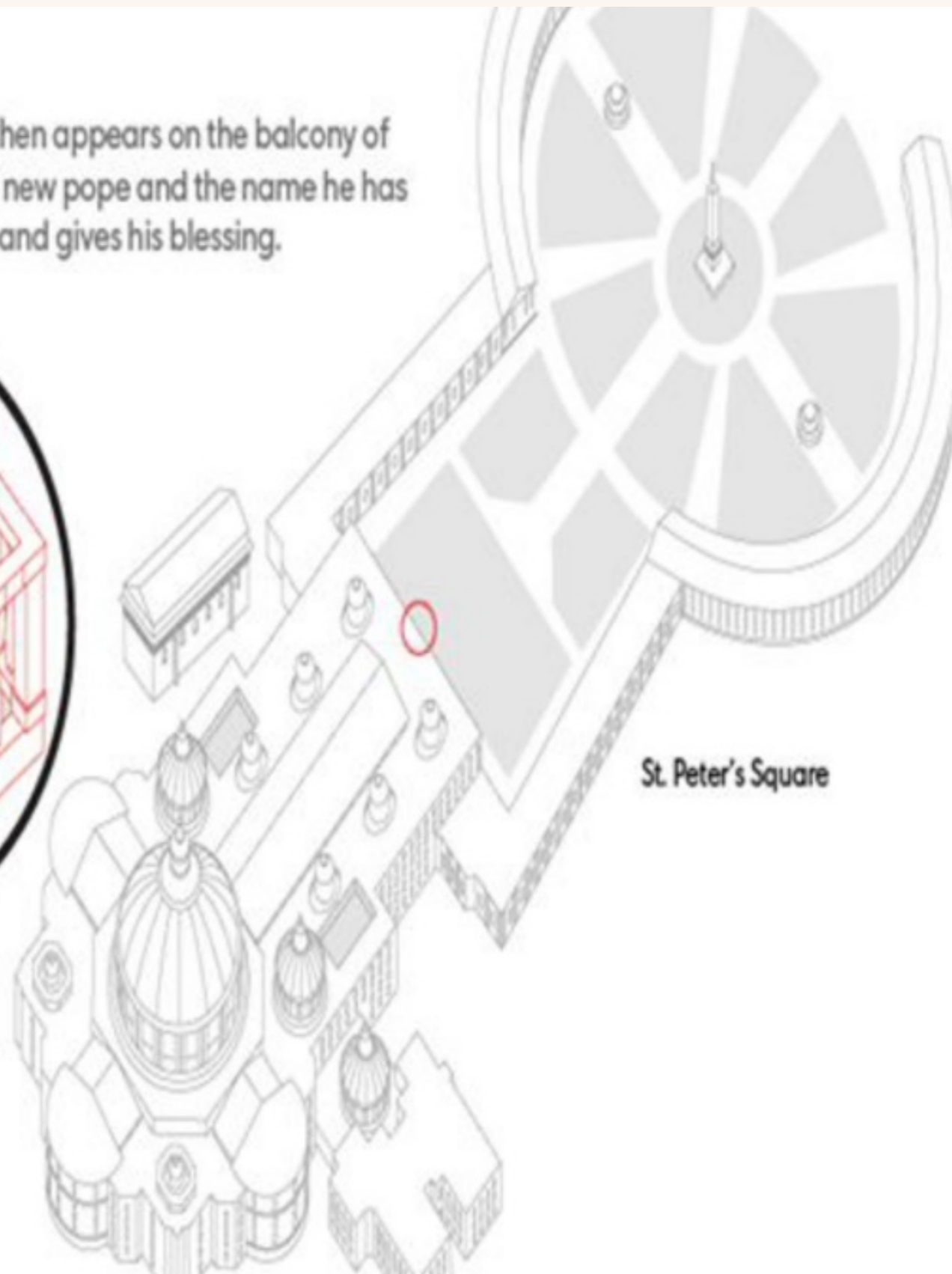
Becoming pope

The newly elected pope accepts the papacy and chooses his new name. He changes into the traditional white papal vestments. Each elector then offers a sign of homage and obedience.



The new pope

The senior cardinal deacon then appears on the balcony of the basilica to announce the new pope and the name he has selected. The pope appears and gives his blessing.



Conclusions:

1. The Roman Catholic Church **IS NOT** the church of Christ;
2. The Apostle **Peter WAS NOT** the first “Pope”;
3. The New Testament church of Christ **IS BASED UPON:**
 - a. The Gospel of Jesus Christ **Acts 2:38, 47;**
 - b. The Head is Jesus Christ
Colossians 1:18, 24;
 - c. The “Traditions” **ARE FROM** the Bible
2 Thessalonians 3:6;
 - d. **THERE IS NO OTHER “WAY” John 14:6;**
John 15:5;