

A Word from the Pastor 5-9-25 Answers:

1. The conclave of 2025 is the largest conclave in the history of the Church.
2. Of the 133 cardinal electors participating in the 2025 conclave, 108 were appointed by Pope Francis. This represents a significant majority of the voting body. The remaining electors were appointed by previous popes.
3. The cardinal electors represent 70 countries. This represents the most geographically diverse conclave in the history of the Catholic Church.
4. The 2025 conclave had 10 American cardinals eligible to vote. These 10 cardinals represent the largest bloc of electors from any country besides Italy.
5. The rules for the papal conclave were primarily established by Pope Gregory X in 1274, through his decree during the Second Council of Lyons. This decree, known as *Ubi periculum*, mandated that cardinals be locked in seclusion ("cum clave") until a new pope was elected. Over time, various popes have modified and reinforced these rules, including Pope John Paul II in 1996 and Pope Benedict XVI in 2007 and 2013.