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Theme: “Heads of State: Ancestry, Coats of Arms, and Flags”



AROUND THE VASSALLO ANCESTORS OF POPE FRANCIS

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Summary (in English)

Although born in Buenos Aires in Argentina, Pope Francis -Jorge Bergoglio- 8th sovereign of the Vatican City State has his roots in Italy. During his childhood, the Holy Father had special ties with his paternal grandmother Rosa Margherita Vassallo who raised him and whom he called Nonna Rosa. The latter was originally from Piana Crixia in the province of Savona, in Piedmont.

In addition, some monarchs currently reigning in Europe and the Middle East are descendants of a Piedmontese and Milanese nobleman, Vassallo (de) Vassallo, 4th Lord of Lavinio, Riseria and Cassina della Vallo in Milan who is said to have been born around 1170–1175 in Vercelli or its region. An interesting hypothesis proposes that Vassallo is also the ancestor of the Supreme Pontiff.

The aim of this conference is to present -in French- the lineage of the Vassallos in Piedmont and beyond (as well as the arms of Pope Francis and the flag of the Vatican).

CV: Valérie Gautier is a recognized genealogist in France. She was president of the French Federation of Genealogy from 2019 to 2024. She is the vice-president of the International Confederation of Genealogy and Heraldry. Currently, she is in charge of the Genealogy Observatory within the European Karolus Institute (member of the FFG and the CIGH). She is also the author of several books, including “ABC of Genealogy”.