

AUTOMOTIVE

Mercedes-Benz supplies Vatican with first electric Popemobile'

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The custom G-Class model features a height-adjustable seat, an emissions-free drivetrain optimized for slow, ceremonial travel and other such modifications that will accommodate the Pope's public appearances. Image credit: Mercedes-Benz

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

German automaker Mercedes-Benz is introducing the world to the first electric Popemobile this month.

The custom G-Class model features a height-adjustable seat, an emissions-free drivetrain optimized for slow, ceremonial travel and other such modifications that will accommodate the Pope's public appearances. With the reveal of the new G 580 with EQ technology, Mercedes-Benz solidifies its nearly century-long relationship with the Vatican, additionally embracing Pope Francis' vision for sustainability.

"With the new Popemobile, Pope Francis is the first pope to be traveling in a fully electric Mercedes-Benz when making public appearances," said Ola Kllernius, chairman of the board of management of [Mercedes-Benz Group AG](#), in a statement.

"This is a special honor for our company, and I would like to thank His Holiness for his trust," Mr. Kllernius said. "With this Popemobile, we are also sending out a clear call for electromobility and decarbonization.

"Mercedes-Benz not only stands for the special and individual but also for consistently creating the conditions for a net-carbon-neutral new car fleet in 2039."

Sustainable milestone

The handcrafted vehicle was presented to the Pope in Vatican City on Dec. 4.

Ensuring environmentally conscious travel during the Jubilee Year 2025, an event expected to draw millions to Rome, the unveiling took place near St. Peter's Basilica, where Pope Francis also met with the engineers and designers behind the project.

Team members hailing from facilities in Graz, Sindelfingen and Rome worked for over a year to produce this singular vehicle, blending advanced technology with traditional craftsmanship.



The handcrafted vehicle was presented to the Pope in Vatican City on Dec. 4. Image credit: Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes-Benz has been creating vehicles that have served the Catholic Church since 1930. Earlier iterations included the 460 Pullman Sedan for Pope Pius XI and the iconic G-Class Popemobiles introduced in the 1980s.

The latest electric version upholds this legacy, incorporating the company's modern sustainability standards ([see story](#)) while maintaining the hallmark pearl-white finish.

"We build the perfect Mercedes for every customer including, for almost 100 years, the Vatican," said Britta Seeger, member of the board of management of Mercedes-Benz Group AG, in a statement.

"We are overjoyed to be able to fulfill the Holy Father's wish for an electric Popemobile and are particularly proud to be able to build the vehicle according to his requirements," Mr. Seeger said. "This cooperation at eye level honors us deeply and is a valuable symbol of sustainable change together."