



AMERICAN NATIONAL  
CATHOLIC CHURCH

April 21, 2025

The American National Catholic Church  
Office of the Presiding Bishop  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Statement of Condolence on the Death of His Holiness Pope Francis**

*"Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many rooms. If it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also." John 14:1-2*

From the Clergy and the People of God of the American National Catholic Church

With profound sorrow and deep respect, the Clergy and the People of God of the American National Catholic Church join with the wider Church Catholic in mourning the death of His Holiness Pope Francis.

Though we are not a jurisdiction of the Roman Church, we honor the Papal Chair as a sacred symbol of unity in the Body of Christ, and the Bishop of Rome as *primus inter pares*—the First among equals. In Pope Francis, we recognized a courageous witness to the Gospel, a humble servant of Christ, and a powerful example of servant leadership in the spirit of the Good Shepherd.

His papacy was marked by a tireless commitment to mercy, justice, and love—especially for the poor, the marginalized, and the forgotten. His pastoral heart reached beyond the boundaries of tradition to embrace the world with compassion, humility, and prophetic courage.

In the words of the Vatican's official statement:

*"He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with faithfulness, courage, and universal love, especially for the poorest and most marginalized. With immense gratitude for his example as a true disciple of the Lord Jesus, we commend the soul of Pope Francis to the infinite merciful love of God, One and Triune."*

We give thanks for the life and witness of Pope Francis, whose voice called the Church to remember its mission: to proclaim the reign of God by walking with the broken, lifting up the downtrodden, and loving without condition.

May the memory of Pope Francis be a blessing to all the People of God and a call to renewed discipleship in our own time.

*Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord,  
and let perpetual light shine upon him.  
May he rest in peace. Amen.*