



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP · Diocese of Duluth

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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We have just received the news that our Holy Father, Pope Francis has passed away. At this moment, we join Catholics around the world in mourning his death, and more importantly we join millions of people in pausing our day to pray for his soul.

As the Vicar of Christ on earth and the successor of St. Peter, Pope Francis faithfully guided the Church, teaching us how to follow Jesus and live out the Gospel. His life was a testament to God's love, and through his words and actions, he shepherded the Church with wisdom and compassion.

According to the reports Pope Francis died at 7:35am (Rome time) while battling health complications in the hospital. He was 88 years old.

During this time of mourning, we give thanks for his leadership, his service to Christ and His Church, and the many ways he strengthened the faith of Catholics worldwide. While we grieve his passing, we trust in the hope of the Resurrection and God's promise of eternal life.

Let us pray for the repose of his soul, for the Church as we enter this time of transition, and for the cardinals who will soon gather to elect our next Holy Father. May we also reflect on how we can continue the mission of the Church by deepening our faith, growing in holiness, and serving others with love.

Please join me as we pray now together the following prayers:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

Hail Mary Full of Grace, The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen

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

Most Reverend Daniel Felton  
Bishop of Duluth