



DIOCESE *of* LACROSSE
OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS

April 21, 2025

Statement on the Passing of Pope Francis

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

La Crosse, WI. Today, with hearts both heavy and grateful, we join Catholics around the world in mourning the passing of His Holiness, Pope Francis.

Pope Francis offered the Church—and the world—a profound witness of humility, joy and mercy. From the moment he stepped onto the balcony of Saint Peter’s Basilica in 2013, he invited us not only to believe in God’s closeness, but to embody it: to accompany the poor, to care for creation, to encounter others without fear and to walk as a Church that listens. His papacy will be remembered for its pastoral heart and unwavering call to go to the margins.

As we entrust his soul to the mercy of God, we ask all the faithful to join us in prayer—not only for Pope Francis, but for the entire Body of Christ.

We pray for the Cardinals who will soon gather in Rome, that they may listen attentively to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in selecting our next Holy Father.

We pray for the Universal Church—both those seen and unseen—and especially the many faithful around the world whose voices may never enter a conclave, but whose quiet fidelity, courageous love and patient hope are the fabric of our Faith.

And we pray for one another: that in this time of transition, we may be united in Christ, open to the Spirit and renewed in our call to live the Gospel boldly.

Pope Francis reminded us, “*The God of mercy does not tire of forgiving. We are the ones who tire in asking for forgiveness.*” Today we turn once more in prayer to the God of mercy, confident that Pope Francis now sees the face of the One he served so faithfully.

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