

Friends,

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936, has reached the end of his earthly pilgrimage.

Pope Francis was a great pastor who spoke from the heart and with tender affection. I had the pleasure of meeting with Pope Francis several times during his papacy. On the occasions when he and I spoke, his comments would burn their way into my heart and mind. During a meeting with my fellow bishops, he reminded us that “the first task of a bishop is to pray.”

Pope Francis’ papacy was marked by two master themes: mercy and evangelization. In an interview, he famously remarked that the Church is a field hospital to those wounded by our postmodern, relativistic society. It must, first and foremost, heal the wounds.

Pope Francis had a keen awareness of the destructiveness of sin, and he encouraged the Church to show the world the merciful face of Christ. He also emphasized the importance of our personal witness to the light of faith, drawing others to the life-giving joy of the Gospel.

As we celebrate Pope Francis’ life and legacy, please join me in praying for the repose of his soul.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Robert Barron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

+ Bishop Robert Barron

Pope Francis

Pope Francis left this world with a legacy of Mercy and Love for all. This legacy that he pursued throughout his life and humbly shared with all he met, including the world, by his actions and with words when needed, was indeed endowed in Pope Francis by the One Triune God for the good of the faithful, the Church, all of God's people in the world and nature itself.

This Mercy and Love that Pope Francis lived and shared was from the beginning. Genesis 1 verse one "In the Beginning God created the heavens and the earth.". From this moment God's Mercy and Love was poured out on all the World and all its inhabitants, human, animals, and nature alike.

What Pope Francis did in his papacy was to simply put Mercy and Love at the center of all he did and all he encountered. From an article by Andrea Tornielli 4/21/2025 Vatican News

Pope Francis, our Holy Father Francis died April 21st at 7:35 AM The Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the Father's house. This according to the Vatican News announcement.

Give thanks to God for sharing Francis with us for 88 years. Let us also thank Francis for his deep faith and harkening to God's voice throughout his life. Showing the Church and the world God's Mercy and Love he has for everyone and what it means to be a True Disciple of Christ.

In remembrance of Pope Francis and his example of showing Mercy and Love to all, we journey forward in this Easter season simply putting Mercy and Love at the center of all we do and all we encounter. Doing so we will honor the One Triune God, Pope Francis, and the continual legacy of pouring out of Mercy and Love to others, which is the main stay of Faith.

Pope Francis said, **"It is with God's mercy: a great light of love, of tenderness, because God forgives not with a decree, but with a caress."** From an article by Andrea Tornielli 4/21/2025 Vatican News