



## ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHDIOCESE OF REGINA OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

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### **Statement from Archbishop Donald Bolen on the Passing of Pope Francis**

April 21, 2025

It is with deep sorrow that we, the faithful of the Archdiocese of Regina, join with Catholics and many others around the world in mourning the passing of Pope Francis.

Pope Francis' twelve-year papacy was defined by an unwavering commitment to the mercy of God made visible in the life of the Church and the world. His tireless concern for the poor, the marginalized, and those so often overlooked, has left an indelible mark on the lives of people around the world.

Pope Francis was deeply human. He knew he was a sinner, and trusted that he was loved by God, and called to serve. He knew his own limitations and failings, and that informed his understanding that we need to hear all the voices as we discern how the Church is supposed to proclaim the Gospel and live its message.

Pope Francis invited us time and again to walk the path of compassion, tenderness, and accompaniment. He called us to build a Church that goes out to the peripheries, that listens before speaking, and that embraces synodality — walking together as the People of God, discerning the promptings of the Holy Spirit in communion with one another.

He modelled a spirit of dialogue, not only within the Church but also with all Christians, calling us to walk together, pray together, and act for justice and peace together. Pope Francis also fostered dialogue with people of other religious traditions and with all people of goodwill. His bridge-building efforts reached across religious, cultural, and political divides, reminding us that authentic encounter and respectful conversation are essential to the Gospel mission.

Today, as we mourn the death of our brother, we give thanks to God for the gift of Pope Francis, for his courage, his vision, and his ever-present reminder that mercy is the very heart of God. Dying the day after Easter, we see his passing in light of the resurrection, and pray that he too will rise and will see the face of the Risen Lord. May his legacy continue to inspire the Church for generations to come.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.

Yours in Christ,

✠ Donald J. Bolen  
Archbishop of Regina