



On the Death of Pope Francis

SEATTLE, April 21, 2025 – The Archdiocese of Seattle is deeply saddened by the news of the death of Pope Francis, who has been the universal shepherd not just for Catholics, but for all of God’s children. He fought through his recent health challenges with such grace and had a beautiful public moment on Easter Sunday – our holiest of days, celebrating the resurrection of our Lord. What a beautiful gift to the world.

We are immensely grateful for the pastoral care he shared with us and for his lifelong commitment to demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. He loved the poor, the outcast, the downtrodden, the marginalized, the earth and all of God’s children. His papacy will be celebrated for teaching all of us to love like Christ did.

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne issues the following statement:

I am deeply saddened at the news of the death of Pope Francis. I am also profoundly grateful for his years of witness to the Gospel. By his teaching and pastoral charity, he has reminded us that the heart of God is loving mercy and all people are called to exercise this mercy in all of our relationships. May Pope Francis now experience the same loving mercy from the living God he served so selflessly throughout his ministry and life. Please join me in praying for the peaceful repose of this good shepherd.