



DIOCESE OF SCRANTON

Remembering Pope Francis (1936- 2025)



Christians around the world are mourning the death of Pope Francis, who died Monday morning (April 21) at the age of 88.

His gestures - from tenderly embracing the sick to repeatedly visiting prisoners - touched millions of hearts. He also transformed the image of the papacy into a pastoral ministry based on personal encounters and strong convictions about poverty, mission and dialogue.

Elected in 2013, Pope Francis first greeted the world from St. Peter's Basilica as Bishop of Rome. In his final weeks, he did the same, surprising the faithful with appearances across Rome despite fragile health.

On Easter, he gave his final "Urbi et Orbi" blessing and rode the popemobile one final time. As per his wishes, he'll be buried near the Marian icon he visited often at the Basilica of St. Mary Major.

[Click Here to Read More About Pope Francis' Legacy](#)

Mass for the Repose of the Soul of Pope Francis

Celebrated by Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

Tuesday, April 22, 2025

12:10 p.m.

Cathedral of Saint Peter, Scranton



To pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis, the Most Rev. Joseph C. Bambera, Bishop of Scranton, will celebrate a special Pontifical Mass of Remembrance Tuesday afternoon at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in Scranton.

The Mass will begin at 12:10 p.m. and all are invited to attend.

For those people unable to attend in person, CTV: Catholic Television of the Diocese of Scranton will broadcast the Mass live and livestream the liturgy on the Diocese of Scranton website, Diocese of Scranton YouTube channel and across all Diocesan social media platforms.



Bishop Bambera's Statement on the Death of Pope Francis

*"While we feel an
overwhelming sense of
loss, we are comforted by
the incredible legacy of
love, compassion and
mercy that Pope Francis
bestowed upon the
Church, a legacy that
will continue to inspire
and guide us well into
the future"*

[Read Bishop
Bambera's Full
Statement](#)



In final testament, pope asks for simple burial, prayed for peace

In his brief final testament, Pope Francis asked to be buried at Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major and said he had offered his suffering for peace in the world.

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Pope died of stroke, heart attack, coma, Vatican says

Pope Francis died April 21 after suffering a stroke and heart attack, said the director of Vatican City State's department of health services. The pope had also gone into a coma.

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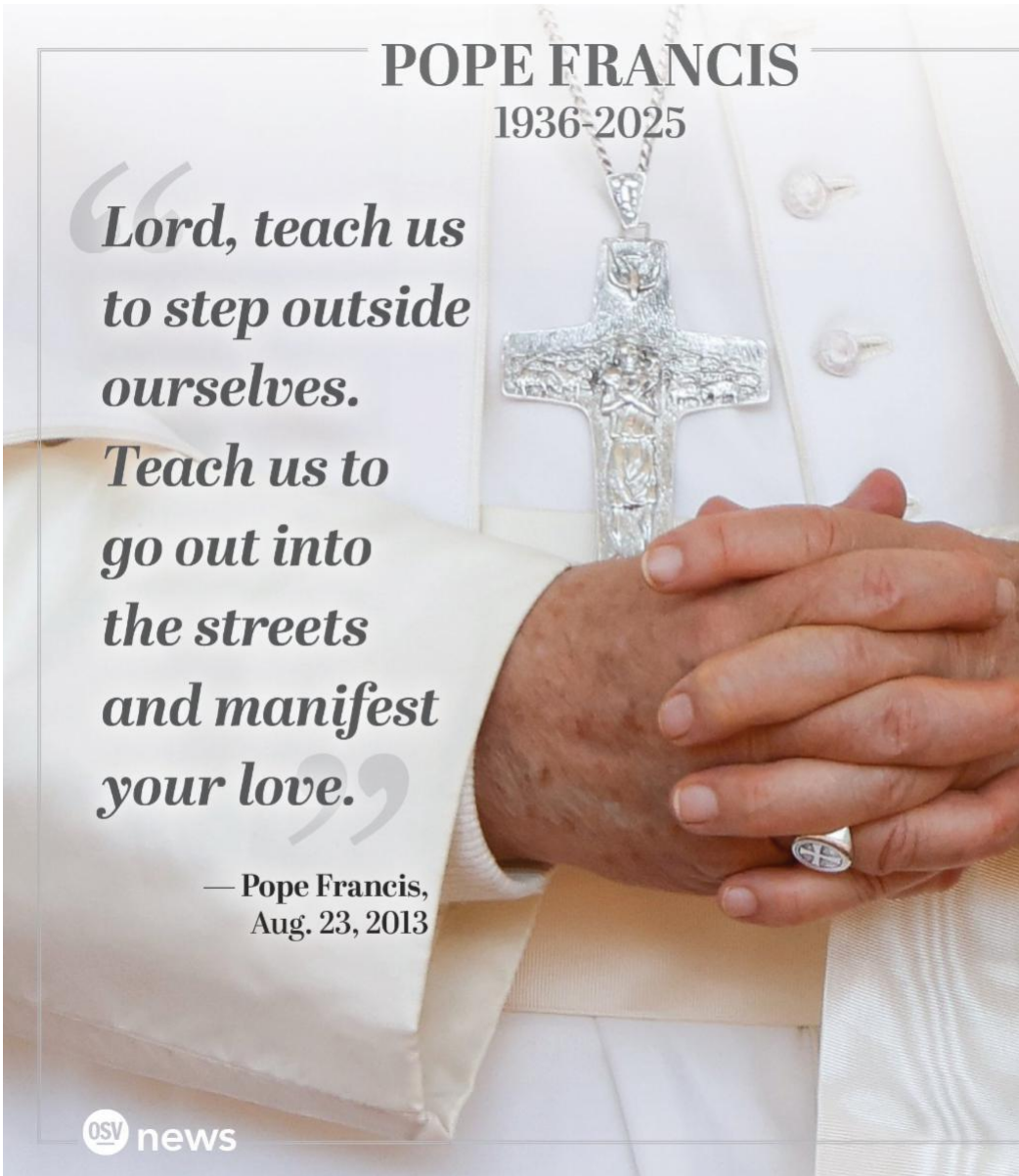
POPE FRANCIS

1936-2025

*“Lord, teach us
to step outside
ourselves.
Teach us to
go out into
the streets
and manifest
your love.”*

— Pope Francis,
Aug. 23, 2013

OSV news





Pope's 47 trips reflected his desire to draw close to world's peripheries

In his 12 years as head of the universal church, Pope Francis took 47 trips abroad, visiting more than 65 countries and covering more than 270,000 miles, which is equivalent to 11 times around the Earth.

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Every life is sacred: Pope fought abortion, death penalty, poverty

In his efforts to promote a holistic defense of human life, Pope Francis frequently denounced a “throwaway culture” where anyone not considered “useful” was seen as disposable — including the unborn and aged.

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Synodality: Pope Francis' method and vision for the church

While Pope Francis often bucked formality and sidestepped some offices of the Roman Curia, one institution he believed in deeply was the Synod of Bishops and – even more – the notion of “synodality.”

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While holding line on priesthood, Pope Francis promoted women's roles

Asserting that the Catholic Church needed the gifts and experiences of women, Pope Francis appointed several women to top positions in the Roman Curia, including the first female prefect of a major dicastery.

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Pope's teaching on family, sexuality emphasized mercy, welcome

Pope Francis’ emphasis on God’s mercy and on pastoral outreach to Catholics who felt



Pope Francis lived up to his namesake's love, care for creation

Tapping into the spirit and spirituality of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis made care for creation

pushed to the edges of the Catholic community marked a new, and often controversial, approach to the family and sexuality during his pontificate.

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and for all that lives on the earth a pastoral priority. He saw caring for creation not as a political or social battle, but a moral imperative.

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POPE FRANCIS

1936-2025

*“Mercy will always
be greater than
any sin, and no one
can place limits on
the love of God who
is ever ready to
forgive.”*

— Pope Francis,
“Misericordiae Vultus,” No. 3

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