

REST IN PEACE HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS



BORN
DECEMBER 17, 1936

ORDAINED TO THE HOLY PRIESTHOOD
DECEMBER 13, 1969

ELECTED TO THE PAPACY
MARCH 13, 2013

DIED
APRIL 21, 2025



"We will never be disillusioned or lose our way if we are guided by God."

Pope Francis, who died April 21 at the age of 88, gave new energy to millions of Catholics as he transformed the image of the papacy into a pastoral ministry based on personal encounters and strong convictions about poverty, mission and dialogue. U.S. Cardinal Kevin J. Farrell, chamberlain of the Holy Roman Church, announced that Pope Francis had died at 7:35 a.m. "His whole life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and His Church," Cardinal Farrell said in a video announcement broadcast from the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae, where Pope Francis lived.

Promoting peace, solidarity and respect for the Earth, the pope insisted people needed to recognize each other as brothers and sisters and issued an encyclical about that, "Fratelli Tutti, on Fraternity and Social Friendship." He signed the text at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi on the saint's feast day, October 4, 2020.

Pope Francis spent much of the first nine years of his pontificate pursuing two ambitious projects: revitalizing the Church's efforts at evangelization – constantly urging outreach rather than a preoccupation with internal church affairs – and reforming the central administration of the Vatican, emphasizing its role of assisting bishops around the world rather than dictating policy to them.

On March 19, 2022, the ninth anniversary of the inauguration of his papacy, he finally promulgated "Praedicate Evangelium" ("Preach the Gospel"), his complete restructuring of the Roma Curia, highlighting its mission to serve the Church's evangelization efforts at all levels.

"Go out" was Pope Francis' constant plea to every Catholic, from curial cardinals to the people in the pews. More than once, he told people that while the Bible presents Jesus as knocking at the door of people's hearts to get in, today Jesus is knocking at the doors of parish churches trying to get out and among the people.

Read the full article: "Global pastor: In word and deed, pope preached mercy, outreach" by Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service <https://www.usccb.org/news/2025/global-pastor-word-and-deed-pope-preached-mercy-outreach> (Accessed April 21, 2025).