



April 21, 2025
Easter Monday

Bishop Daniel E. Flores' Statement

The Church bids farewell to Pope Francis

With great sorrow we have all received the news of the death of Pope Francis, the Successor of Peter, a shepherd to us all. From the beginning of his papacy in 2013 he showed us zeal for the concerns of Christ, great humility and always a joyful heart.

The last words he proclaimed to us spoke of the Resurrection of Christ from the dead. His constant teaching to us urges us never to separate this announcement from an ardent evangelical desire to serve the poor and forgotten.

His words and example have challenged us to think more of others than of ourselves, more of those who suffer than of our own pursuits of comfort, more of our mission to enact the mind of Christ in the world than to seek the aims of worldly mediocrity. To take these lessons to heart, to put them in practice is first of all to honor Christ the Lord. This is what Pope Francis, like a good shepherd, most desired for us to do.

The Church begins nine days of prayers for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. I urge the faithful to gather in parish churches to pray the Rosary for him and attend Mass.

Public Masses for the repose of his soul will be celebrated at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Brownsville at noon on Tuesday, April 22, and at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 23 at the Basilica of Our Lady of San Juan del Valle.

Let us comfort one another with assurances of faith and hope, as the Apostle urges, for Christ, who suffered and died for us, has risen as he promised.

+Daniel E Flores
Bishop of Brownsville