



Diocese of Gary

dcgary.org

9292 Broadway
Merrillville, IN 46410-7088

Phone: (219) 769-9292

Fax: (219) 738-9034

MEDIA CONTACTS:

communications@dcgary.org

Colleen McGinty-Rabine, *Director of Communications*
crabine@dcgary.org | (219) 769-9292

Cecilia Cicone, *Digital Media Strategist*
ccicone@dcgary.org | (219) 769-9292

- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -

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Bishop McClory comments on the death of Pope Francis

Pope Francis died at 7:35 a.m. Rome time this morning, Monday, April 21, 2025, Monday of the Octave of Easter. The earthly leader of the Catholic Church was 88 years old.

Most Reverend Robert J. McClory, encouraged the faithful to join him in praying for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. The traditional practice is to pray an Our Father, Hail Mary and a Glory Be, as well as the Holy Rosary and having Masses celebrated for this intention. Catholics believe that prayers for the dead can assist souls destined for heaven as they are purified to enter God's presence.

Bishop McClory quoted Pope Francis' Easter message, given the day before his death: *"In the Lord's Paschal Mystery, death and life contended in a stupendous struggle, but the Lord now lives forever. He fills us with the certainty that we too are called to share in the life that knows no end, when the clash of arms and the rumble of death will be heard no more. Let us entrust ourselves to him, for he alone can make all things new (cf. Rev. 21:5)!"*

In his letter to the faithful, Bishop McClory noted that "Pope Francis lived out the joy of the Gospel from the first day of his pontificate until his last breath. He consistently reminded us that the Church should be looking outward to love and accompany others as they draw closer to Jesus. The best tribute that we could give to Pope Francis is to show someone today how much Jesus loves them by what we say and do.

"We unite in prayer with Catholics around the world and all people of goodwill in gratitude for the life of our Pope Francis and pray during this Easter season, as we celebrate His resurrection, that our Lord will bless Pope Francis with the reward of eternal life."

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Additional Resources

More information, including what happens after the death of a pope, is available at dcgary.org/NWIC. The website will be continually updated. The Diocese of Gary will share more information as it becomes available.

About the Diocese of Gary

The Diocese of Gary serves an estimated 170,000 Catholics in Lake, Porter, LaPorte and Starke counties through 58 parishes, two missions and one Catholic student center, three diocesan high schools, one private high school and 17 parish elementary schools serving 5,985 students. An additional 5,610 students are enrolled in parish Catholic formation programs. More than two million are served by Catholic affiliated agencies including seven Catholic hospitals, residential and day care facilities for adults and children, and centers for Social Services. Learn more at dcgary.org.