



Diocese of Davenport

Office of the Bishop

April 21, 2025

PRESS RELEASE

It is with great sadness that we have received the news of the death of Pope Francis. His life and ministry was an inspiration to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. He was a true witness to a life of humility and service.

As the first pope from the Americas, he brought with him the experience of being first and foremost a Pastor who cares deeply for his flock. Throughout his ministry he emphasized the importance of compassion, environmental stewardship and social justice. His time as superior for the Jesuits was a tumultuous time during a military dictatorship in Argentina. In that time, he worked tirelessly to protect human rights and support for the marginalized. As pope, he continued to be a vocal advocate for the poor.

He has called all of us to stewardship for the environment. His encyclical, *Laudato Si*, addressed an urgent need for a collective response as a world community to respond to the climate crisis.

Throughout his ministry he has been a great champion for the rights of migrants and refugees. I have been inspired by his courageous and prophetic voice, speaking truth to a world not always prepared to listen.

I will always be grateful to the Holy Father, for the confidence he has placed in me in calling me to this episcopal ministry as Bishop of Davenport. He will always be an inspiration for me personally and I mourn his passing. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace.

+ Dennis G. Walsh