



Easter Monday April 21, 2025

Dear Faithful of the Archdiocese of Ottawa-Cornwall,

Many were pleasantly surprised Easter day to see Pope Francis make a public appearance to wish a Happy Easter and offer his blessing. The following day, a greater surprise awaited the faithful around the world as they were informed of the Holy Father's passing as a result of a stroke and heart failure.

During his 12-year Pontificate, the Catholic Church recognized in the Vicar of Christ a humble man, who constantly desired to reveal God's mercy and compassion especially for the poor, the sick, the marginalized and the migrants. The Jubilee year of Mercy in 2015 made this vision evidently clear.

Pope Francis taught us the importance of listening, the art of accompaniment and discernment. His concern for creation as our common home and his relentless invitation for us to be missionary disciples going out to the peripheries to proclaim the Gospel and to live it by example, will be part of a rich legacy he has left behind.

During this time of mourning, may we never forget the source of our Hope. Christ's resurrection which we have just celebrated must be our focus and our consolation. We pray that the Lord may welcome into his Father's eternal dwelling the one that walked as a pilgrim of hope and who placed his trust in the redeeming work of Christ.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

+Marcel Damphousse  
Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall