

Expression of Condolence for His Holiness Pope Francis by Toronto City Council

Moved by: Mayor Olivia Chow

Seconded by: Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik

The Mayor and Members of Toronto City Council are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, the 266th Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church on April 21, 2025, at 88 years of age.

Jorge Mario Bergoglio, an Argentinian Jesuit priest, was elected the first Latin American pope on March 13, 2013. He chose the regnal name Francis, inspired by Saint Francis of Assisi known for his poverty, humility and love of nature, to signal his desire to make the Church a beacon for the poor.

As the leader of the global Catholic Church and Head of the Holy See, the Pope centered his papacy on building a more caring and humane world that focused on justice and human dignity. Pope Francis opened the doors to those who felt excluded by the Church, embraced people of all faiths, highlighted the plight of refugees and underscored the need to care for the environment. He released the first-ever papal document on the environment and called for a global response in addressing the urgent climate crisis.

Pope Francis will be remembered for his vision of fairness that was rooted in accountability. In 2022, the Pope made a pilgrimage to Canada to meet with Indigenous communities to apologize for the role of the Catholic Church in residential schools.

The Pope leaves behind a legacy as a progressive pontiff who was respected and well-loved by Catholics and those around the world for embodying mercy and unconditional love.

The City Clerk is requested to convey, on behalf of the Members of Toronto City Council, our sincere condolences to Toronto's Catholic community and to the global Catholic community on the loss of the head of the Roman Catholic Church.

April 23, 2025