

April 21, 2025

Dear Sisters in the League,

It is with deep sorrow that I share the heartbreaking news of the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis, earlier today on this Easter Monday.

Pope Francis was the first Supreme Pontiff from the Jesuit Order, a distinction that reflected his deeply spiritual, intellectual, and service-oriented approach to leadership. For over 12 years, he faithfully shepherded the Catholic Church with grace, humility, and compassion. Lovingly known as the "People's Pope," he was a beacon of hope and mercy, ushering in a more open, transparent, and welcoming Church that reached out to the marginalized and called all to deeper love and understanding.

Pope Francis embodied true servant leadership. With both grace and gusto, he led by example, challenging us to care for creation, embrace the poor, seek justice, and walk together in synodality. His legacy will continue to inspire generations of faithful.

Funeral details are not yet available, but we will share them once they are known.

Let us continue to keep Pope Francis in our prayers and hold his memory in our hearts. As we mourn his loss, let us also pray fervently that the Holy Spirit will guide the selection of his successor — one who will walk courageously along the remarkable path Pope Francis has paved for the Church.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

In faith, love, and unity,

Teresa

Teresa DiFalco, Diocesan President - Hamilton Diocesan Council The Catholic Women's League of Canada