



Monday, April 21, 2025

His Eminence Cardinal Giovanni Battista RE
Dean, College of Cardinals
Vatican City

Your Eminence,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the global Disciples of Christ community, I extend our heartfelt condolences on the passing of the Holy Father, Pope Francis. We join our Roman Catholic sisters and brothers—and the whole Body of Christ—in mourning the loss of a servant whose life and ministry were a living testimony to the Gospel.

We are also mindful of your role in guiding the College of Cardinals during this time of grief and transition. Please know that we hold you in prayer as you offer pastoral leadership to the Church in this moment of sorrow and reflection.

Pope Francis offered the Church—and the world—a clear and courageous witness to God's call for peace, justice, reconciliation, and compassion. His voice rang especially on behalf of those who are poor, forgotten, or pushed to the margins of society. His unwavering commitment to a Church that walks with the suffering and lifts up the vulnerable resonates deeply with our own identity as a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

We were especially moved to learn that Pope Francis requested funeral rites marked by simplicity and centered on the Church's faith in the Risen Christ. Even in his death, he draws us back to the heart of the Gospel—to resurrection hope and the humble love of Christ.

For those of us in the Disciples Ecumenical Consultative Council, Pope Francis will be remembered as a shepherd who longed to see the joy of the Gospel made real in the lives of the least among us—and as a brother in Christ whose vision of Christian unity encouraged us to keep setting the Table wider.

Please know that our prayers are with you and the whole Roman Catholic Church in this time of sorrow. As we give thanks for Pope Francis' life and witness, we recommit ourselves to walking together toward the visible unity of the Church, which is both Christ's prayer and our shared calling.

Peace in Christ,

Rev. Paul S. Tché
General Secretary

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