



April 21, 2025

By Stephen J Berg, Bishop of Pueblo

With deep sadness we mourn the death of our Holy Father, Pope Francis. He passed peacefully today on Easter Monday, having celebrated the Easter Passover of Our Lord, in this Jubilee Year of the Pilgrimage of Hope, in love for the Church and the whole world, which Our Lord called him to serve.

We share sorrow as we mourn the loss of our Holy Father this day. For more than a decade, he has given us hope and inspiration, a powerful example of the love of Christ to the world. From the very beginning of his ministry he passionately led the Church, beginning with his Exhortation, *The Joy of the Gospel*, leading into the 2015 *Extraordinary Year of Mercy*, then calling the Church into synodality over the past three years, culminating in this Jubilee Year of Hope.

As the Bishop of Pueblo, I share the gratitude of our local church for the inspiration of Pope Francis in his life of service, and loving care for all people. Especially, we have been moved by his love for Jesus. As he wrote in beginning of his pontificate, “The primary reason for evangelizing is the love of Jesus which we have received, the experience which urges us to ever greater love of him. What kind of love would not feel the need to speak of the beloved, to point him out, to make him known? . . . How much good it does us when he once more touches our lives and impels us to share his new life!”

Pope Francis lived in witness to the personal encounter of Jesus, and the care and concern of Our Lord for all creation. His call to accompany those outside the borders of society, his urgings towards world peace, and loving concern for the care of our environment will continue to inspire and motivate us. In this time of sorrow, let us remember with gratitude our Holy Father and pray for the repose of his soul. Jesus called him his friend. May he rest in peace.