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It's hypocrisy to call yourself a Christian and chase away a refugee or someone seeking help, someone who is hungry or thirsty, toss out someone who is in need of my help... **If I say I am Christian, but do these things, I'm a hypocrite.**

POPE FRANCIS



I hope those that celebrated Easter had a wonderful weekend. Sadly we all learned of Pope Francis's passing yesterday. Rather than rest, he took to his mission to preach love and charity to those less fortunate.

We honor and reflect upon the life and papacy of Pope Francis, who served as the 266th Bishop of Rome from 2013 until his passing yesterday. Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he was the first pope from the Americas, the first Jesuit pope, and the first non-European pontiff in over a millennium.

From the outset of his papacy, Pope Francis embodied humility and a profound commitment to the marginalized. He chose the name Francis in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, signaling his dedication to the poor and to environmental

stewardship. Rejecting opulence, he resided in the Vatican guesthouse and emphasized a "poor Church for the poor."

His teachings consistently highlighted God's boundless mercy. In his apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, he called for a Church that is missionary and compassionate, reaching out to those on the peripheries. Through *Laudato Si'*, he urged care for our common home, linking environmental concerns with social justice.

Pope Francis was a vocal advocate for the oppressed, emphasizing the dignity of migrants, the poor, and those often overlooked by society. He initiated reforms within the Vatican, promoting transparency and accountability, and sought to address the Church's handling of clerical abuse with a renewed commitment to justice.

His approach to leadership was marked by dialogue and inclusivity. He convened synods to encourage open discussions on pressing issues, emphasizing the importance of listening to the faithful. While upholding Church doctrine, he fostered a more pastoral and compassionate tone, reminding us that the Church is a field hospital after battle, tending to the wounded.

As we remember Pope Francis, let us be inspired by his example to live out the Gospel with humility, mercy, and a fervent commitment to justice. May we continue his mission of building a more inclusive and compassionate Church, ever attentive to the needs of the least among us.

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