



PRESS RELEASE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORWARD LATINO MOURNS THE PASSING OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS.

Franklin, WI – Forward Latino, a national non-profit, non-partisan service and advocacy organization headquartered in Franklin, Wisconsin and with affiliates and members in 29 states mourns the passing of Pope Francis. Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he was the church's first Jesuit Pope as well as the first Pope from Latin America.

National President Darryl Morin issued the following statement:

"This morning, the flock awakens to the sorrowful news that its shepherd, has passed. A steadfast champion of immigrants and the intrinsic human dignity bestowed upon every soul at the moment of conception, he bore the weight of the marginalized and persecuted, feeling deeply responsible for their safety and well-being.

Refusing the trappings of wealth and prestige, he chose humility as his companion. Room 201 of the Vatican's modest guesthouse became his home, and a small Fiat his means of transport—turning away from opulent papal apartments and limousines. He was, in every sense, a Pope for all believers, transcending barriers of wealth and status.

Until his final breath, he continued to bless the people and urging those in positions of power to truly live their faith, to treat foreigners "as your native-born. Love them as yourself."

During this time of false and inflammatory rhetoric, of attacks on human dignity and promises of mass deportations, the flock awakens without its shepherd and is amongst the wolves.

This morning, we pray for his spirit, "Dios te bendiga Papa Francisco."

About Forward Latino:

Forward Latino is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that empowers affiliates to inspire and engage communities, strengthen our democracy, improve the lives of working families, protect the environment, and stand up for equality and civil rights. Forward Latino cultivates, trains, and supports a diverse national network of Latina/o/x community leaders addressing the civic, economic, and political challenges of the 21st century. Forward Latino has members and affiliates across 29 states. www.forwardlatino.org

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