Pope Francis Dies at 88

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Pope Francis, the 266th Pontiff of the Roman Catholic Church, passed away on April 21, 2025, at the age of 88. His death occurred at his residence in Vatican City after suffering a stroke, which led to cardiac arrest. Throughout his papacy, which spanned over a decade, he became known for his commitment to social justice, environmental advocacy, and a concern for the poor. He consistently called for reform within the church, showing humility and the need for the church to engage with global issues.

In the final days of his life, Pope Francis remained active, participating in public services during Holy Week and meeting with global dignitaries. Despite his declining health, he expressed gratitude to those who cared for him, with his last words reportedly being "thank you," spoken to his longtime nurse. A funeral will be held on April 26, 2025, in St. Peter’s Square, where world leaders are expected to gather to honor his memory. Following the Mass, Pope Francis will be buried in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major for his wishes, an unadorned final resting place.

The news of his passing has sparked tributes from around the world. Leaders from various nations have praised Pope Francis as a man of high compassion and morals, recognizing his role in challenging the Church to address issues of social inequality, migration, and climate change. As the Vatican prepares for a period of mourning, plans are being made for a papal conclave, which will be held in early May to elect his successor. Pope Francis’s legacy which was shown by a loyalty to serving the most vulnerable and a vision for a more together and reformed church will leave a lasting impact on both the Catholic Church and the global community.