April 21, 2025

To the Clergy, Religious and Faithful of the Diocese

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Early on Easter Monday in Rome, Pope Francis left this world and entered eternity.

His legacy will include a tireless emphasis on care for the marginalized in society and for migrants and refugees, a call to responsible stewardship of creation, promoting reconciliation and peace, and a commitment to the poor.

His Apostolic journey to Canada in 2022 (what he called “a penitential pilgrimage”) was made to advance reconciliation and healing for those who attended the former Indian residential schools.

His emphasis on the missionary character of the Church promoted a deeper awareness among Catholics of their Baptismal vocation to be witnesses for Christ.

When he inaugurated the Jubilee Year last December, Pope Francis called us to be “pilgrims of hope.” Now that his own pilgrimage has ended, we hope that he has met a merciful Judge and pray that he will be given a place among the saints.

O God, immortal shepherd of souls,look on your people’s prayers and grant that your servant Pope Francis,who presided over your Church in charity,may, with the flock entrusted to his care,receive from your mercythe reward of a faithful steward.Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,God, for ever and ever.

+ Stephen Jensen

Bishop of Prince George