



Office of the Bishop

With Gratefulness for Pope Francis

Today we learned of the death of our beloved Holy Father. Even though it is natural to feel sadness and loss at his death, this is also a time to be thankful to God for the gift of Pope Francis and his ministry to the Church.

He was a true “Pilgrim of Hope,” who’s Petrine ministry inspired and challenged us all. He will be remembered for his message of charity and mercy.

Please pray for him in your daily prayers, not only for the repose of his soul, but also that he will continue to intercede for us and the Church from heaven.

O God, who in your wonderful providence chose your servant Pope Francis to preside over your church, grant, we pray, that having served as the Vicar of your Son on earth, he may be welcomed by him into eternal glory. Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Sincerely in Christ our Lord,

✠ Gregory J Bittman
Bishop of Nelson