



ARCHIEPISCOPUS ABOENSIS FINLANDIAE

January 1st, 2023

His Holiness Pope Francis

Your Holiness,

The message of sorrow concerning the death of Pope Benedict XVI deeply affected Christians in Finland. The message reminded us of the limitations of life, but also about the life of a significant spiritual leader. Pope Benedict XVI was known in Finland as a learned theologian as well as a cultured and profound Christian. I had the honor of meeting him in 2009 when I participated in the pilgrimage of St. Henry in Rome, and that encounter left me a strong impression. Blessed be his memory.

*"Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace."
(Luke 2: 29)*

++Tapio Luoma
The Archbishop of Turku and Finland
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland