

January 2, 2022

01/002

His Holiness Pope Francis  
Apostolic Palace  
Vatican City 00120

Your Holiness,

I am saddened by the news of the departure from this life of Your Holiness' predecessor, His Holiness Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, and I offer my condolences to Your Holiness.

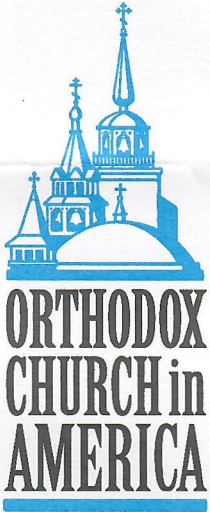
His Holiness' Christian leadership, witness to the Gospel, wide-ranging theological activity, and personal devotion to our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ were and remain an inspiration to generations of the Christian faithful, including many of the theologians and believers of the Orthodox Church in America. His desire and labor for good relations between the Roman Catholic Church and the Orthodox Churches, in particular his joint declaration with His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew—a legacy upon which Your Holiness has continued to build—will be long remembered.

His Holiness will be missed, though he leaves behind an important legacy for Christians worldwide. May the merciful Lord make the memory of His Holiness to be eternal and bring comfort to all those who grieve for him.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tikhon', written in a cursive style.

+Tikhon  
Archbishop of Washington  
Metropolitan of All America and Canada



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