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Zurich, 22 April 2025

Your Eminence,

It was with sadness that I learned of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis. On behalf of the New Apostolic Christians around the world and on a personal level, I offer my sincere condolences to you and the Roman Catholic Church.

Pope Francis led the universal Church with humility, clarity and love. His dedication to the poor, his message of mercy, and his commitment to peace, dialogue, and the protection of the creation have had an impact far beyond his own denomination. His willingness to serve rather than dominate and his sincere humility were evident to many.

I also feel personally connected to his vision of a Church that does not shine with perfection, but is marked by real life—a “bruised Church” that is close to the people and does not revolve around itself in a sterile way. His pastoral ministry was imbued with compassion and a desire to bring hope where it is most needed.

For the days ahead, I wish your Church spiritual leadership, wise decisions, and the strength for renewal based on the spirit of the gospel.

With sincere condolences and deepest sympathy,

Jean-Luc SCHNEIDER