



**Mennonite
World Conference**

A Community of Anabaptist
related Churches

**Congreso
Mundial Menonita**

Una Comunidad de
Iglesias Anabautistas

**Conférence
Mennonite Mondiale**

Une Communauté
d'Eglises Anabaptistes



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April 21, 2025

His Eminence Giovanni Battista Cardinal Re
Dean of the College of Cardinals

Your Eminence,

We are heartbroken by the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis early this morning. I wish to extend my deepest sympathies to the Roman Curia. I pray that the presence of our Lord and Comforter, the Spirit of Christ, may especially accompany you during this time.

With gratitude, we remember Pope Francis's life. We reflect on how, through his life and teachings, he highlighted important issues for our Anabaptist Mennonite communion: the imitation of Christ in his approach to power; his understanding of leadership as service; his commitment to peace; his focus on marginalized individuals, the poor, and immigrants; his dedication to church unity, as demonstrated in his relationships with other Christian communions and the practice of synodality; his respect for different faiths; and his care for God's creation. These efforts, among others, endeared him to many of our brothers and sisters throughout his years of ministry.

The death of Pope Francis has temporarily halted our journey alongside him. However, his ministry and life fill us with profound gratitude for the gifts God has bestowed upon us through him. We join the Catholic Church in mourning his death. Nevertheless, we remember the Apostle Paul's words with hope:

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ.
(1 Cor. 15:20-22, NRSV)

Walking alongside the Church during this time of grief and gratitude for Pope Francis's life,

César García
General Secretary

c.c. S. E. Flavio Peace
Arcivescovo Segretario Dicastero per la Promozione dell'Unità dei Cristiani

Following Jesus, living out unity, building peace