



## STATE of MINNESOTA

# Proclamation

- WHEREAS: Jorge Mario Bergoglio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on December 17, 1936. When he was elected Pope in 2013, he chose the name Pope Francis in honor of St. Francis of Assisi, who was a servant to poor and destitute; and
- WHEREAS: Pope Francis served as pope of the Roman Catholic Church from 2013 to 2025 and made history as the first Latin American Pope; and
- WHEREAS: Pope Francis dedicated his life to the Catholic Church and was deeply loved by his diocese; he was known for his humility and advised his priests to show mercy and keep their doors open to everyone, saying "my people are poor and I am one of them"; and
- WHEREAS: Pope Francis was a champion of progressive causes, was outspoken in his support of the world's poor and the dispossessed, championed the plight of migrants across the globe, was known for his environmental activism and advocacy for peace, and was the first pope to authorize the blessings of same-sex couples; and
- WHEREAS: Named Person of the Year by *Time Magazine* in 2013, Pope Francis led with a focus on reform, addressing questions and issues of death, social justice, ecology, wealth inequality, materialism, and the role of the family; and
- WHEREAS: Pope Francis died on April 21, 2025, at the age of 88; and
- WHEREAS: Pope Francis led with humility, courage, and love, demanding justice for the poor and other marginalized communities, while serving as a spiritual leader for millions around the world. His courageous leadership has positively impacted countless lives, and his work will not be forgotten.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, TIM WALZ, Governor of Minnesota, do hereby order all United States flags and Minnesota flags to be flown at half-staff at all state buildings in the State of Minnesota until the day of interment in honor and remembrance of Pope Francis.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed at the State Capitol this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April.



  
GOVERNOR

  
SECRETARY OF STATE