



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Most Reverend Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis,
statement on the death of Pope Francis:**

"We now commend to God the soul of Pope Francis and give thanks for the great gift that he has been to the Church, particularly over these past 12 years. Pope Francis' service as a Jesuit priest, then bishop and Archbishop of Buenos Aires, and his election as our Holy Father has been marked by great humility. His unceasing concern for the poor demonstrated to us how we may live out of the Gospel in our world.

In the words of his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium/The Joy of the Gospel*, "the Church which 'goes forth' is a community of missionary disciples who take the first step, who bear fruit and rejoice." As shepherd of the universal Church, Pope Francis lived these words until his passing into eternity.

May Pope Francis, who labored in the Lord's vineyard here on earth, now know the fullness of peace promised to us by our Savior, Jesus Christ! Let us pray to the Heavenly Father that eternal rest may be granted unto him."

Archbishop Rozanski will celebrate Mass today at noon, the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis.

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The Archdiocese of St. Louis was established in 1826 and currently serves about 444,000 Catholics in St. Louis and 10 surrounding Missouri counties. As Catholics in the Archdiocese of St. Louis, we strive to fulfill our Baptismal calling by prayer and worship, teaching and sharing our faith, serving others, and fostering unity in diversity.