



Archdiocese of Winnipeg

Office of the Archbishop

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MEMORANDUM

To: All Parishes
All Clergy
All Institutes of Consecrated Life
All Media Inquiries

From: Archbishop Richard Gagnon *+ R. G.*

Date: December 31, 2022

Re: Statement on the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI

The people of the Archdiocese of Winnipeg are saddened at the news of the passing of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI today and are asked to offer prayers and Masses this coming week for him. Pope Benedict XVI, during his 8 years as Pope made an immense contribution to the pastoral life of the Church through his writings on theology and spirituality. He also contributed greatly to the necessary dialogue between the Church and secular culture- his visit to Britain in 2010 was a good example of this.

Although respected as an important theologian during his life, he also demonstrated a personal faith and a determination to face problems the Church was encountering and admitted errors when they were made. He was the first Pope to meet with sexual abuse victims and modernized the Church's response to this painful reality. He sought to establish rapport with the Muslim world when relationships became difficult. And for Canadians, we cannot forget his reception of Canadian Indigenous leaders when they came to share their stories about Residential Schools and the Pope's expression of sorrow and regret to them in 2009. Pope Benedict also canonized St. Kateri Tekakwitha and St. André Bessette two important Canadian saints.

His contribution to the life of the Church will be long remembered and we give thanks for his faithful ministry.