

CONFERENCE *for* MERCY
HIGHER EDUCATION

April 21, 2025

As the Conference for Mercy Higher Education, we join with our 17 Mercy colleges and universities, American Catholic higher education, as well as the Universal Church in mourning the passing of Pope Francis during this Easter season.

Pope Francis exemplified what it means to live the gospel values of Jesus Christ with his unwavering advocacy for peace, immigrants, the poor, and people on the margins. He highlighted the interconnectedness of humanity by encouraging environmental stewardship and often spoke of God's mercy and his commitment to justice through his outreach – all hallmarks of his papacy.

Just days ago, at the Easter Vigil Pope Francis encouraged us "...to reflect Easter in our lives and become messengers of hope, builders of hope...We can do this by our words, by our small daily acts, by decisions inspired by the Gospel. Our whole life can be a presence of hope."

As we mourn this loss, let us honor his memory by being that witness of hope in the world through our prayer and actions.

Eternal rest grant unto Pope Francis, O Lord, and let your perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.