

Prayer Service on the Anniversary of Pope Francis Entering Eternal Life

Sing an appropriate hymn as individuals come forward to place a cross, candle, Bible, bowl of holy water, and an image of Pope Francis on a prayer table.

Leader: We come together in prayer to remember Pope Francis on the anniversary of his entering eternal life. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: We remember in gratitude the gifts that Pope Francis shared with the world. One of those gifts was to share his wisdom with children. He told children, “All of you have a chest, a box, and inside there is a treasure. Your job is to open the chest, discover the treasure, develop it, give it to others, and receive from others the treasures they offer.” Let us think about our true treasures today.

Reader: A reading from the First Letter to Timothy.

[Read 1 Timothy 6:17–19.]

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Think of some of the gifts you have. Start with the obvious ones: life, food, shelter, family, and friends. Then move to thanking God for the specific gifts you have to share with the world. Are you musical, mathematical, or artistic? Are you loyal to your friends? Do you care for animals? Do you tell good jokes? Are you athletic? Are you a good listener? What other gifts from God do you recognize? Thank God for all these gifts.

Now think of some of the gifts you admire in your friends. Thank God for your friends and the sharing of their gifts.

In recalling these gifts, we honor God who gave them and remember the legacy of Pope Francis, who helped us recognize our treasures within. May we, like Pope Francis, encourage each other in finding our gifts and in sharing those gifts with the world in love.

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father...

Leader: Let us go forth now to share our gifts with the world. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.