



SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
NATIONAL ADVOCACY CENTER

Rise Up AND Act for Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 25, 2025

Remembering Pope Francis

Statement by Fran Eskin-Royer, Executive Director
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

(Silver Spring, MD) – The National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd offers prayers of thanksgiving for the life and pastoral leadership of our late Holy Father, Pope Francis.

Pope Francis truly was a Pope of Mercy and a Pope for the Peripheries. For me, a powerful part of his legacy stems from his lifting up the importance of mercy and acceptance, seeing them as essential components of our faith and how we live out our faith. He washed the feet of the imprisoned and housed the homeless. He sought peace for the oppressed and advocated for the migrant. Pope Francis even ensured that the Church was better represented by creating new cardinalates in the southern hemisphere far from the historic center of Catholicism.

Pope Francis called for a Church that approaches all people, especially those on the margins, with love and compassion rather than judgment. He saw God's mercy as a source for transformation and urged God's people to imitate it in their lives.

We thank Pope Francis for his love in action, for his compassion and for his charity, and we pray that the Church and all people imitate his example.

He has gone to his Father for a well-deserved rest. We pray for the repose of the soul of Pope Francis. May he rest in peace.

[The National Advocacy Center](http://www.gsadvocacy.org) educates and advocates on social justice issues for the transformation of society to the benefit of all people reflecting the spirituality, history and mission of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. NAC advocates at the Federal level for people living in poverty, immigrants, survivors of human trafficking, survivors of domestic abuse, and other vulnerable populations.

The National Advocacy Center reflects the spirituality, history and mission of the Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd (better known as the Sisters of the Good Shepherd). The sisters and their agencies work in solidarity with the disenfranchised – particularly families, women and children – who often are forgotten, left-behind or dismissed.

The Sisters of the Good Shepherd was founded in France in 1835 and are in 70 countries on 5 continents and have had a presence in the United States for over 175 years. With a presence in 22 states and 1 U. S. Territory, the Sisters and their Lay Mission Partners have dedicated themselves to serving girls, women and families who experience poverty, exploitation, vulnerability and marginalization.