



OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

December 31, 2022

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We were all saddened to hear the news regarding the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI. Our diocese joins all of those around the world who mourn the loss of this good and faithful servant of God.

Pope Benedict has left us a theological and spiritual legacy that will continue to benefit the Church for many years to come. This is especially true in his personal witness to the primacy of Christ and to the beauty of the liturgy.

In his preaching and writing, Pope Benedict focused often on the love of God. He taught that in order to grow in holiness we need to deepen our relationship with Jesus who is Love Incarnate. Pope Benedict tried to live this reality in his own life in a most humble way.

We pray that Our Lord and His Blessed Mother will welcome him into Paradise. May Pope Benedict be granted the grace to gaze upon the God he loved for all eternity.

Requiescat in pace et in amore.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, D.D.
Bishop of St. Catharines