

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 386

WHEREAS, His Holiness Pope Francis was born Jorge Mario Bergoglio on December 17, 1936, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, to Mario Bergoglio and Regina (Sivori) Bergoglio; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis entered the Society of Jesus as a novice in 1958; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis was ordained as a priest in 1969 after more than a decade of training with the Jesuit order; and

WHEREAS, from 1973 to 1979, Pope Francis was the head of the Society of Jesus in Argentina; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis became an auxiliary bishop in Buenos Aires in 1992 and was elevated to archbishop in 1998; and

WHEREAS, in 2001, Pope John Paul II made Pope Francis a cardinal; and

WHEREAS, as a cardinal, Pope Francis was known for his humble lifestyle and commitment to social justice; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis was elected Pope on March 13, 2013, becoming the first Pope from the Society of Jesus and the first from the Americas; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis had a remarkable pontificate, and was widely recognized for his humility and compassion, his devotion to the poor, and his commitment to inclusivity; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis was a leading advocate for international peace and human rights, including the rights of migrants, challenged the world to combat climate change, and supported ending the death penalty and the criminalization of homosexuality; and

WHEREAS, in 2015, Pope Francis became the first and only Pope to address a Joint Session of Congress, delivering a message of hope and healing, and of peace and justice; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis died at the age of 88 on April 21, 2025; and

WHEREAS, throughout his life, Pope Francis taught all of us to lead with compassion, conviction, and humility; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis reminded us that we are inextricably bound to one another, and that we all have a sacred duty to alleviate suffering across the world; and

WHEREAS, Pope Francis was a model of mercy and inclusivity, never hesitating to comfort the sick, the indigent, or the most marginalized among us; and

WHEREAS, the death of Pope Francis is a great loss to the State of New Jersey, to the United States, and to the world; and

WHEREAS, we mourn the loss of Pope Francis, pay tribute to his transformative vision for global justice and human dignity, and honor his pastoral legacy; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and appropriate to extend our sincerest sympathies to the Catholic Church and to all who found deep solace and hope in Pope Francis's words and the example he set, and to honor and celebrate his life;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILIP D. MURPHY, Governor of the State of New Jersey, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and by the Statutes of this State, do hereby ORDER and DIRECT:

1. The flag of the United States of America and the flag of New Jersey shall be flown at half-staff at all State departments, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities until sunset of the day of interment, in recognition and mourning of His Holiness Pope Francis.

2. This Order shall take effect immediately.

GIVEN, under my hand and seal this day
22nd of April,
Two Thousand and Twenty-Five,
and of the Independence of the
United States, the Two Hundred
and Forty-Ninth.

[seal]

/s/ Philip D. Murphy

Governor

Attest:

/s/ Kate E. McDonnell

Chief Counsel to the Governor