



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**December 31, 2022**

## **Statement Celebrating the Life of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI**

***From Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski, Archbishop of St. Louis:***

Today, we join our Brothers and Sisters in Christ across the globe in mourning the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, a man who humbly and selflessly dedicated his life to sharing the good news of God's redemptive love. Pope Benedict faithfully served the Roman Catholic Church as a priest for over 70 years. His immense contributions to the Roman Curia provide great inspiration for our stewardship of His Holy Church.

During his time in the Vatican, His Holiness confronted increasing secularism around the world, a struggle that continues today. As we reflect on his life during this blessed Christmas season, I pray that we may all be guided by his example and walk closer to Christ in our own lives. We do this because, as Pope Benedict has so simply stated, "when we give ourselves to Him, we receive a hundredfold in return."

We thank God for the many blessings that Pope Benedict has bestowed upon the Church and all God's children. May the Lord grant eternal rest unto him and let perpetual light shine upon him.

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*[The Archdiocese of St. Louis](http://www.archstl.org) was established in 1826. Comprised today of nearly a half million Catholics and led by the Most Reverend Archbishop Mitchell T. Rozanski in communion with His Holiness Pope Francis, we are called by our Lord, Jesus Christ, to be His Church and live His Gospel. Learn more about the Archdiocese of St. Louis at [www.archstl.org](http://www.archstl.org), and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn.*