



ARCHDIOCESE FOR THE MILITARY SERVICES, USA
The Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio

2 January 2023

To the Priests and Pastoral Coordinators in the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As you know Pope emeritus, Benedict XVI passed away on 31 December last. His life, ministry, and teaching were a great gift to the Church. It will take decades to delve into the depth of his teaching in writings, homilies, documents, and interventions. I invite you to read the reflections I offered as President of the USCCB.

(<https://www.usccb.org/news/2022/reflection-usccb-president-death-pope-benedict-xvi>)

We should invite those entrusted to our pastoral care to pray for the repose of his soul. The custom of praying the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be to the Father is to be encouraged, especially with school-aged children, as is the recitation of the Rosary for the repose of his soul. Blessed Sacrament chapels may display a portrait of the late Holy Father with black bunting and church bells may be tolled where they exist.

The situation of our global Archdiocese is unique. I will offer Mass with those gathered for FOCUS in St. Louis on 5 January and with the AMS staff in the main chapel of the Edwin Cardinal O'Brien Pastoral Center at noon on 6 January for the repose of the soul of the late Pontiff. I invite all to unite their prayers with these Masses and those that the Auxiliary Bishops might celebrate in their regions. I invite priests to organize Masses for the repose of his soul in their communities. Care should be taken that such a Mass be celebrated according to the norms of the liturgical calendar.

It has been the custom that the nine days following the funeral of a Pope are observed as official days of mourning in Rome and throughout the Church. The Novendiales, as they are called, may be observed in different ways in the various Particular Churches. In addition to the celebration of Mass, public prayer of the *Liturgy of the Hours*, Eucharistic and other devotional prayer, lectures on the teaching and legacy of the Pope Emeritus, activities for the relief of the poor offered for the intention of his soul, or other such initiatives are encouraged. A sample set of novena prayers will be made available on the USCCB website.

Remember that the first section of "Various Prayers for the Dead" in the *Roman Missal* includes three Mass formularies for a Pope (forms A, B, and C). As with all Masses for the Dead, the prayers of the various formularies are interchangeable. The celebrant may or may not wish to insert the word "Emeritus" when naming Benedict XVI.

You certainly recall the wording of the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* 381. A Mass for the Dead, on receiving the news of a death, for the final burial, or the first anniversary, may be celebrated even on days within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord,

on days when an Obligatory Memorial occurs, and on weekdays other than Ash Wednesday or the weekdays of Holy Week.

Other Masses for the Dead or “daily” Masses, may be celebrated on weekdays in Ordinary Time on which Optional Memorials occur or when the Office is of the weekday, provided such Masses are actually applied for the dead.

In the United States, the vestment colors violet, white, or black may be used in Masses and Offices for the Dead (see GIRM, no. 346e). However, it is customary for red vestments to be worn at a Mass for the Dead offered for a Pope since we are mourning the death of the successor of the Apostle Peter.

Naturally, special petitions can be offered in the Universal Prayer at Masses celebrated for the repose of the Pope Emeritus. The following are provided as examples:

– May Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI, called to the heavenly kingdom by the Lord, rejoice forever at the banquet table of heaven, we pray to the Lord.

– That Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI, who served the Church as Supreme Pontiff, may worship God for ever in the liturgy of heaven, we pray to the Lord.

– May the tireless efforts of Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI, now called to the Lord, bear fruit in unity, peace and love among all men and women, we pray to the Lord.

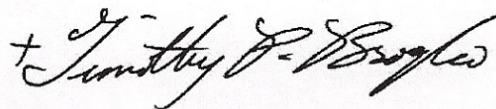
– Grant that Pope (Emeritus) Benedict XVI, who preached that God is love and that we are saved in hope, may know God’s love forever in heaven, we pray to the Lord.

• In the Eucharistic Prayer, any of the Prefaces for the Dead (I-V) may be used. The formula for mentioning the name of the current Pope in the Eucharistic Prayer is to be followed as usual (i.e., “Francis our Pope and Timothy our Bishop”). The naming of the deceased Pope Emeritus is best done during the intercession for the dead, as provided in Eucharistic Prayers I-III: “your servant Benedict, our Pope (Emeritus).”

• Communities and individuals may pray the Office of the Dead in the *Liturgy of the Hours* for the intention of the Holy Father. In a public celebration of Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer, a bishop, priest, or deacon could give a brief homily following the reading. A reflection on the life of the former Pope might best be given after the concluding prayer and before the dismissal.

I hope that these indications are helpful as you try to lead the faithful in praying for the repose of the soul of this great man. We should also thank Almighty God for the gift of his life and ministry.

Sincerely in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Timothy P. Broglio". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a cross at the beginning.

(The Most Reverend) Timothy P. Broglio
Archbishop for the Military Services, USA