

Gov. Mike DeWine, other Ohio leaders react to death of Pope Francis

By **Anthony Shoemaker**
Columbus Dispatch

[Pope Francis](#) died Monday after a long battle with double pneumonia and other health issues. [He was 88.](#)

Here are some reactions from Ohio political leaders to the news of the Pope's death:

Gov. Mike DeWine

"Fran and I are saddened by the death of Pope Francis. He was an inspiration to us and to millions around the world. His genuine love of and devotion to all people – the poor, the unborn, those without a home, those emigrating to build a better life for themselves and their families, those of all faiths, and those with no faith – was evidenced to the world from the day he was selected to serve as Pope until his last public appearance on Easter Sunday.

His work directly with the poor was a testament to his life of great humility. And, meeting with children clearly brought him great joy! It gave us the same joy watching him interact with them.

He spread the Gospel up until the very end of his life on this Earth, making a special effort to do so on Easter. Pope Francis brought hope to the world through his compassion for all."

Lt. Gov. Jim Tressel

"Ellen and I were saddened to hear of the passing of Pope Francis this morning. Let us remember him as a man who served others, especially the most needy, and led with kindness and wisdom. May he rest in peace."

U.S. Sen. Bernie Moreno, R-Ohio

"Pope Francis was a tireless advocate for the dignity of life and service to others. His legacy will continue to inspire others as he inspired Catholics all over the world. May he rest in peace."

Former U.S. House Speaker John Boehner, R-West Chester

"'Speaker, will you pray for me?' With those words, Pope Francis changed my life. He will forever hold a place in America's history as the first Pope to address a joint meeting of the US Congress, and in hearts across the world for his compassionate stewardship of the Church."

Vivek Ramaswamy, Republican candidate for Ohio governor

"We join billions of good people around the world today in mourning Pope Francis. It was a great honor to have met him. May he rest in peace."

Amy Acton, Democratic candidate for Ohio governor

"Pope Francis reminded the world that leadership can be rooted in empathy, humility, and care for the most vulnerable. His passing is a profound loss — and a call to keep building a more just and loving world."

Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose

"Saddened to hear about the passing of Pope Francis. His compassion and humility touched millions around the world. May he rest in peace."

Ohio House Speaker Matt Huffman, R-Lima

"I'm saddened to learn of the passing of Pope Francis. He leaves behind a legacy of faith, compassion, and commitment to protecting life. His leadership in the Catholic Church will forever serve as a powerful reminder of the importance of these values in our world."

Ohio House Democratic Leader Allison Russo, D-Upper Arlington

"He never forgot that God's love shines brightest through acts of compassion and service to the poor, the sick, the oppressed, and the marginalized. Rest in peace, Pope Francis. You were truly the People's Pope."

U.S. Rep. Joyce Beatty, D-Columbus

"I'm saddened by the passing of Pope Francis – a powerful voice for peace, tolerance and stewardship of the Earth as our common home.

"By centering the needs of the poor and marginalized and urging us to protect our planet, he exemplified the power of leadership to uplift both people and the world we share. His bold condemnation of racism as "an intolerable sin" challenged us all to pursue justice and compassion.

"As we grieve this profound loss, may we honor his memory by continuing his mission of mercy, equality and care for creation and all of humanity."

U.S. Rep. Bob Latta, R-Bowling Green

"Today I join in mourning the passing of Pope Francis. The first pope from the American continent, he brought a unique perspective to the universal church as a Jesuit and a shepherd from Argentina. I pray for his eternal rest. May his memory be a blessing."

U.S. Rep. Greg Landsman, R-Cincinnati

"Pope Francis led with humility and kindness. He knew that we were capable of fixing the injustices of the world - and that we are required to work hard on behalf of justice every day. What a wonderful gift he was to all the world."

U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce, R-Russell Township

"The world mourns the loss of Pope Francis. He leaves behind a legacy of charity and compassion. May he rest in peace."

U.S. Rep. Mike Turner, R-Dayton

"Throughout his papacy, Pope Francis championed the cause of the poor, called for peace in times of conflict, and reminded us all of the power of faith and forgiveness. His legacy of kindness and moral leadership will endure for generations to come."

U.S. Rep. Shontel Brown, D-Cleveland

"I join millions in mourning Pope Francis. Francis was a powerful voice for the poor and marginalized and a source of spiritual strength for Catholics in NE Ohio and around the world. May he rest in peace and his legacy continue."

Former Ohio Gov. John Kasich

"Pope Francis always reminded us of the story of the Good Samaritan — that we have a duty to help those who are down and out."