



## The Holy See

---

**LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS  
TO HIS HOLINESS BENEDICT XVI, POPE EMERITUS,  
FOR THE DEATH OF HIS BROTHER, Msgr. GEORG RATZINGER**

*To His Holiness  
Benedict XVI  
Pope emeritus*

You had the sensitivity to be the first to inform me of the news of the death of your beloved brother, Msgr Georg. I wish to renew my deepest sympathy and spiritual closeness to you in this moment of sorrow.

I assure you of my prayers of suffrage for your dear departed one, so that the Lord of life, in his merciful goodness, may welcome him into heaven and grant him the reward that awaits the faithful servants of the Gospel.

I also pray for you, Your Holiness, invoking the Father through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, for the support of Christian hope and tender divine consolation.

Always united in faith in the Risen Christ, source of hope and peace.

With filial and fraternal devotion

Francis

*From the Vatican, 2 July 2020*

---

*L'Osservatore Romano, Weekly edition, n.27, 3/07/2020*

---

