



**Statement from  
The Most Reverend Paul J. Swain  
Bishop of Sioux Falls  
March 13, 2013  
On the Election of Pope Francis I**

It is with great joy and hope for the future that the Catholic faithful of the Diocese of Sioux Falls receives the announcement of the election under the guidance of the Holy Spirit of Pope Francis I, formerly Archbishop of Buenos Aires. We are grateful to have a spiritual father once again around whom we can unite as Roman Catholics. His Holiness' election is recognition of the change that has been occurring in the Church for some time with the most significant growth outside of Europe. The selection of the name Francis calls to mind humility and special concern for the poor, for which he is known in Argentina. On behalf of the clergy, consecrated and laity in the Diocese of Sioux Falls, I pledge our respect, obedience and promise of prayer. May God watch over him.