



From the Office of His Holiness, the Legate
Holy Catholic Church of the Gospels
An Independent Catholic Denomination
Legate Brandon, Leg. Max.

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Public Statement

On the Passing of Senator Lindsey Graham

On behalf of The Holy Catholic Church of the Gospels (HCCoG), an independent catholic denomination, I extend my condolences to the late Senator's family, friends, and loved ones. While my political beliefs are vastly opposed to those held by the late Senator, a belief in the triune God unites us.

Senator Lindsey Graham started his political career in the South Carolina legislature in 1992, and has been a dedicated politician for nearly 35 years; serving in both the House and Senate. During those years, Senator Graham occupied one of the most influential positions in American political life. Many admired his convictions and steadfastness. Others profoundly disagreed with decisions he championed and the policies he defended. History will continue to weigh his public legacy with the benefit of time and evidence.

For the Church, however, death is always a solemn reminder that every earthly office, every earthly power, and every earthly honor comes to an end. Before the judgment seat of Christ, senator and laborer, ruler and servant, rich and poor all stand alike. As it is written, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

Therefore, I call upon the faithful of the Holy Catholic Church of the Gospels to resist every temptation toward mockery, celebration, or hatred. We do not rejoice at death. Neither do we surrender our moral convictions because death has occurred. We may speak truthfully about a person's public actions while still praying that the mercy of God, whose depths exceed all human understanding, may receive them. For the same Lord who created our friends, also created those we disagree with.

In these troubling times, when political discourse and hyper-partisanship have permeated every aspect of our lives, we must remember all the more the words of Jesus who said in his sermon on the mount that "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" Matthew 5:43-45. Jesus in the very next line highlights the fallacy in only loving those who do good by saying "For if you love those who

love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?" Matthew 5:46-47. Jesus ends with a plea for us to show the same indiscriminate love that God shows to us. Loving someone, especially someone who is difficult to love, doesn't mean that we condone when they do the wrong thing; just that we still recognize them as human beings and love them for it, despite their failings.

I know that what I have said is not likely to be a popular opinion, it is the hardest thing a person can do; to show love to those who have hurt them. I know it is not likely to gain me friends. Know only that I struggle with this command myself, and I will likely struggle with it all my life. I took a vow that I will never command of others that which I fail to do myself; thus I only ask that you remember the ideal Christ asks us to aspire to, and nothing more.

So, if Senator Graham erred, may the Lord forgive him. If he acted with integrity, may the Lord reward him. Where his work advanced justice, may its fruits endure. Where it caused suffering, may God bring healing to those who were wounded.

As Christians, our calling remains unchanged. We are commanded to love our enemies, pray for those who persecute us, comfort those who mourn, and pursue justice without hatred. Death does not release us from those obligations. Rather, it reminds us how urgently they are needed.

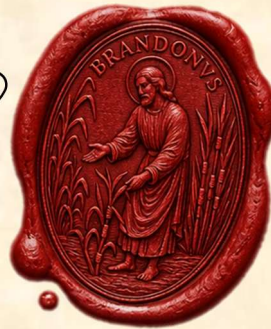
We entrust Lindsey to the God who formed him, commending his soul to the one who knows him best; he is in the Father's hands now. So, may Almighty God receive His servant according to His perfect justice, abundant mercy, and unfailing love.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And let perpetual light shine upon him.

May he rest in peace. Amen.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brandon Leg. Max." The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Brandon" being the most prominent.

Legate Brandon Leg. Max.



His Holiness, the Legate
Holy Catholic Church of the Gospels
Bishop Ecclesiae of the Basilica of Saint Longinus the Centurion