

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**Family of Dr. Norman C. Francis Announces the Passing of a Beloved Leader,  
Educator, and Advocate for Justice**

With heavy hearts filled with love and gratitude, our family announces the passing of our beloved father, Dr. Norman C. Francis, who entered eternal rest on February 18, 2026.

Above all else, he was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend whose love, wisdom, and steadfast faith shaped our family and touched everyone who knew him. His Catholic faith was the foundation of his life, guiding the way he loved, served, and cared for others. He taught us to lead with compassion, to stand for justice, and to trust in God's grace in all things.

While many knew him as the former president of Xavier University, as a civil rights leader, and as a respected voice for justice and equality on both the local and national stage, we knew him simply as Daddy — a man whose greatest joy came from family gatherings, quiet moments of prayer, and encouraging those around him to live with purpose and kindness.

We find comfort in knowing that he is now reunited in eternal rest with his beloved wife, our mother, Blanche, his parents, his brother, Bishop Joseph Francis, and sisters Velma and Pauline, and many cherished members of our extended family who have gone before him marked with the sign of faith. We trust that they are together again in the peace and light of God's loving embrace.

His legacy lives on not only through his accomplishments and leadership, but through the countless lives he inspired, the students and communities he uplifted, the public officials he advised, and the values he passed on to us. We will remember his gentle strength, his unwavering integrity, and his deep passion for equity.

As we celebrate his extraordinary life, we ask for your prayers for our family and for all those whose lives were blessed by knowing him.

Details regarding funeral arrangements will be shared in the coming days. We respectfully ask that our family's privacy be honored during this time of mourning as we gather in faith, remembrance, and love.