

Pope Francis Leaves Hospital—But Is He Truly Healed?

Pope Francis returned to the Vatican on Sunday after spending five weeks in the hospital battling a severe case of double pneumonia. His arrival brought relief to the faithful who had feared for his health, especially given his advanced age of 88.

On his way back, the pope made an unexpected stop at St. Mary Major Basilica, where he has often prayed before and after foreign trips. From his car, he handed a bouquet of flowers to the basilica's cardinal to place in front of the revered Salus Populi Romani icon of the Madonna. Francis has such a deep devotion to this icon that he has chosen to be buried near it.

Breaking News. Spirit-Filled Stories. Subscribe to Charisma on YouTube now!

Earlier that morning, before leaving Rome's Gemelli Hospital, the pope made a brief balcony appearance, waving to the crowd and giving a thumbs-up. His voice was weak and breathless as he acknowledged the hundreds of well-wishers gathered below, many of whom chanted, "Viva il Papa!" and "Papa Francesco!"

/**/

Doctors have prescribed two months of rest and recovery at the Vatican following his five week stay, advising the pope to avoid large gatherings and exertion. While his health struggles have raised concerns about his ability to continue leading the church, his medical team is optimistic that he will eventually resume his normal activities.

Get your FREE CHARISMA NEWSLETTERS today! Stay up-to-date with

current issues, Holy Spirit news, Christian teachings, Charisma videos & more!

His return marks the end of the longest hospitalization of his 12-year papacy. The Vatican had closely guarded details of his condition, leading to widespread speculation about his future. Pilgrims at St. Peter's Basilica, where many have gathered for the 2025 Holy Year, expressed relief and gratitude at his recovery.

Francis will continue receiving medical care at the Domus Santa Marta, his Vatican residence, with access to supplemental oxygen and round-the-clock monitoring. Though his pneumonia has been successfully treated, he will remain on oral medication for a lingering fungal infection in his lungs and will continue respiratory therapy as he regains his strength.

This article originally appeared on American Faith, and is reposted with permission.

Join Charisma Magazine Online to follow everything the Holy Spirit is doing around the world!