

## **Death of Monsignor Ruggero Franceschini OFM Cap Metropolitan Archbishop Emeritus of Izmir**

Monsignor Ruggero Franceschini, who served the Catholic Church in Turkey as Metropolitan Archbishop of Izmir between 2004 and 2015, passed away on December 30, 2024.

Ruggero Franceschini was born on September 1, 1939 in Prignano Secchia (Italy). He entered the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin and pronounced his religious vows in 1960. He was ordained a priest on August 11, 1963.

On July 2, 1993, he was appointed Apostolic Vicar of Anatolia with the episcopal title of Sicilibba in North Africa. On October 3, 1993, he received episcopal ordination from Cardinal Achille Silvestrini, Prefect of the Congregation for the Oriental Churches.

He assigned as Archbishop of Smyrna on October 11, 2004.

After the assassination of Bishop Luigi Padovese on June 3, 2010, he was appointed Apostolic Administrator of the Vicariate of Anatolia.

During his ministry in the Archdiocese of Izmir, he worked to ensure that the Cathedral of St. John was made accessible to all. After major restoration work, the basilica was reopened for worship on September 29, 2013.

On November 7, 2015, His Holiness Pope Francis accepted his resignation and appointed Monsignor Lorenzo Piretto as his successor.

Monsignor Franceschini passed away on December 30, 2024.

May the Lord welcome him with his eternal love and reward him for his long service to our Church in Turkey.