



Pope Leo XIV

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First Augustinian Pope from North America

“Peace be with you! Dearest brothers and sisters, this was the first greeting of the risen Christ, the good shepherd who gave His life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, to reach your families and all people, wherever they are; and all the peoples, and all the earth: Peace be with you.”

Pope Leo XIV— May 8, 2025

Pope Leo XIV was born Robert Francis Prevost on September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois, to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez, of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín of Port Charlotte, Florida and John Joseph of New Lenox, Illinois. He spent his early childhood and formative years with his family on Chicago’s South Side before entering the Augustinian Order in 1977. He was ordained a priest in Rome in 1982, having studied at both the Catholic Theological Union and the Angelicum.

Sent as a missionary to Peru in the 1980s, Fr. Prevost served for over a decade in the city of Trujillo as prior, formation director, professor, and parish pastor. He later served as the Provincial Prior of the Augustinians in Chicago before being elected Prior General of the Order for two terms (2001–2013). In 2014, Pope Francis named him as the Apostolic Administrator of Chiclayo, Peru, and ordained him a bishop. He became Bishop of Chiclayo in 2015 and served as vice president of the Peruvian Episcopal Conference until 2023.

In 2023, Pope Francis appointed Bishop Prevost as the Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America, elevating him to Archbishop. He was made a cardinal-deacon on September 30, 2024, receiving the Diaconate of Saint Monica, and was later named a member of numerous key Vatican bodies within the Roman Curia. On February 6, 2025, he was promoted to the Order of Bishops with the title of the Suburbicarian Church of Albano.

As a bishop, Cardinal Prevost took the episcopal motto, *In Illo uno unum* (“In the one Christ, we are one”), reflecting his Augustinian spirituality. As Cardinal, he has played a major role at various synods and papal events, including leading prayers for his predecessor, Pope Francis, during his hospitalization and celebrating papal Masses during the 2025 Holy Year. Elected as the 267th Pope on May 8, 2025, he has taken the papal name Leo XIV and begins his pontificate with a deep commitment to evangelization, unity, and service to the Church.