

Pope Leo XIV Elected

First American chosen to lead Church

Cardinal Robert Prevost was elected by the College of Cardinals on Thursday, May 8, 2025, as the 267th head of the Catholic Church. The new Pope chose the name Leo XIV.

Pope Leo XIV greeted the cheering crowd at St. Peter's not long after white smoke rising from the chimney over the Sistine Chapel signaled the cardinals had chosen a new Pope.

The new Pope's first words to the Church and the world echoed those of Jesus who appeared to the fearful Apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem after his Resurrection.

"Peace be with you all," Pope Leo XIV said.

"This is the peace of the Risen Christ, a disarmed peace and a disarming peace, humble and persevering," the new Pope said. "It comes from God, God who loves us all unconditionally."

He recalled his predecessor Pope Francis, who had died on the Monday after Easter. Pope Leo XIV used a similar blessing to the one Francis broadcast on Easter during the COVID crisis to an empty St. Peter's Square.

"God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail!" Pope Leo XIV said from the balcony over St. Peter's Square. "We are all in God's hands. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and each other—let us go forward. We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us."



Biography of Pope Leo XIV

Born:

September 14, 1955,
in Chicago

Full name:

Robert Francis Prevost

Ordained priest:

1982 of the Order of
St. Augustine

Ordained bishop:

December 12, 2014

Elevated to cardinal:

September 30, 2023

Elected Pope:

May 8, 2025

Compose Pope Leo XIV spoke of building bridges that unite us all to be one people always at peace. He spoke of the Church building bridges to walk together and to talk with everyone who needs our love, our presence, our voice, and our charity. This means that Catholics should find ways to welcome all people and help people in need. Write a description or draw a picture of something we can do to “build bridges” by welcoming or helping others.



Let Us Pray

Prayer for Our New Pope

In his message to the world, Pope Leo XIV asked us to remember in prayer our mission of unity, for peace in the world, and for the intercession of Mary to help us.

Dear God:

We thank you from the bottom of hearts for our new Pope Leo XIV. We ask that you give him the guidance and strength to help build bridges in the world that can unite all people; bridges that can form a world that lives in peace and love. We ask for the Holy Spirit to help us as well in doing what we can to build bridges in our own lives that forge bridges of friendship, love, and peace. We ask that you bless Pope Leo XIV and your Church to bring Jesus where he needs to go in the world. We ask that Mary, the blessed Mother of God, pray for us always. Amen.

Inauguration Mass among many firsts for new Pope

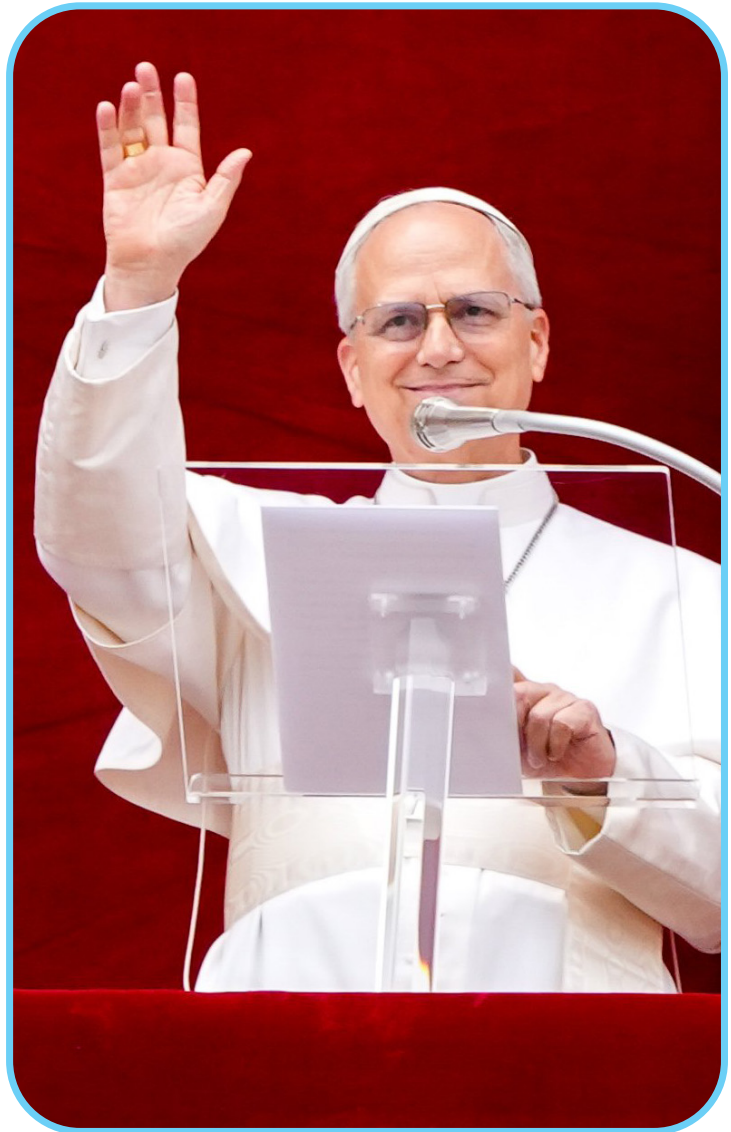
While Cardinal Robert Francis immediately became Pope Leo XIV when he was elected, there is an official inauguration Mass set for Sunday, May 18 in St. Peter's Square. That is one of many firsts for the new Pope.

The inauguration Mass will formally mark Pope Leo's start of his ministry. He will receive the fisherman's ring that every Pope has. He will also receive his papal pallium, a wool band that is worn around his shoulders.

Part his new duties will be to name a team to help him as head of the Church. For now, Pope Leo XIV said he will reflect, pray, and talk with people before final decisions are made.

Among other firsts for the new Pope are the following:

- **May 11:** He will recite the Regina Caeli (Queen of Heaven), the Marian prayer said in place of the Angelus, a prayer about the Incarnation of Jesus, during the Easter season.
- **May 20:** Take formal possession of Rome's Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.



- **May 21:** Pope Leo XIV's first weekly general audience.
- **May 24:** Meeting with members of the Roman Curia, which includes the institutions that help govern the Catholic Church, and employees at the Vatican.
- **May 25:** Formal possession of the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome, which the new Pope heads; and formal possession of Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major, where Pope Francis is buried.

The four Papal basilicas of Rome include St. Peter's, St. John Lateran's, St. Mary Major's, and St. Paul's Outside the Walls. They each have Holy Doors open during the Jubilee Year of Hope declared by Pope Francis and continuing until January 6, 2026.



Sources: OSV News and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
Photos from CNS/Lola Gomez