Pope Leo XIV



Pope Leo XIV (b. 1955) was elected Pope on May 8, 2025, and is the first Pope born after WWII. He spent a great deal of his time as a missionary and then bishop in Peru.

First Pope from the United States

Born in Chicago, Illinois, in 1955, Robert Francis Prevost became the first pontiff born in the U.S. His election marks a historic milestone, following Pope Francis as the first Latin American pope.

First Augustinian Pope

Prevost joined the Order of Saint Augustine in 1977 and served as its Prior General from 2001 to 2013. He is the first member of this order to be elected pope, and his coat of arms reflects his Augustinian heritage.

Senior Vatican Leadership Roles

Before his election, he held key positions such as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops (2023–2025) and President of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America. These roles placed him at the center of global Church governance.

Promotion of Peace and Social Justice

Early in his reign, Leo condemned the proliferation of nuclear weapons and publicly addressed global conflicts, including the war in Iran, while maintaining diplomatic engagement with world leaders He has also reiterated the Church's commitment to migrants' rights, workers' dignity, and the poor, aligning with his predecessor's priorities.

Doctrinal and Ecclesial Milestones

In November 2025, Leo XIV proclaimed St. John Henry Newman a Doctor of the Church, linking education and faith. He also released *Dilexi Te* ("I Have Loved You"), an apostolic exhortation on the poor, continuing work begun under Pope Francis. His encyclical *Magnifica humanitas* (2026) addresses the ethical challenges of artificial intelligence, affirming human dignity.

Reflection Questions

We began this sesies of the Popes with Leo XIII and his work Social Justice in Rerum Novarum. How has Popel Leo XIV continued the work of promoting social justice during his time as pope?

Pope Leo's most recent writing is on the subject of Artificial Intelligence, in particular – the challenges it brings. What challenges and concerns are you aware of in your contact with AI?

As the first American Pope, what does it mean to you to have this relationship with the leadership of the Catholic Church?