



Statement from Archbishop Christopher Prowse on the Election of Pope Leo XIV

Habemus Papam! We have a Pope. With great joy, I join the Church worldwide in welcoming Pope Leo XIV as the 267th successor of St. Peter. Guided by the Holy Spirit, the College of Cardinals has discerned a leader deeply rooted in faith, unity, and service.

When Pope Leo XIV appeared on the balcony, his first words, "Peace be with you," echoed the greeting of the Risen Lord. It is a reminder that the Pope's primary mission, like St. Peter and his successors, is to proclaim the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. His smile and serene presence have already touched hearts, offering the world a message of hope and renewal.

The American born Pope Leo XIV's motto, as a bishop, "*In the One, one*", beautifully reflects his call to unify. From the people of Rome to his Peruvian diocese and beyond, his opening address spoke of peace, walking together, and God's unfailing mercy and love. His focus on unity and his commitment to the themes of synodality show a desire to bring collective harmony to a diverse, global Church.

The new Pope's experience is as varied as it is profound. His time as an Augustinian monk, Prior General of the Augustinian Order and Peruvian bishop and his significant Vatican roles exemplify a balance of his mystical, pastoral, administrative and linguistic charisms. This rich and diverse background uniquely equips him to guide the Church with wisdom and compassion. His choice of Leo XIV reminds us of Pope Leo XIII (1878-1903) whose long Papal ministry was foundational to the articulation of Catholic Social Teaching.

We now enter a time of prayer as Pope Leo XIV prepares for his formal installation and begins his ministry as the Bishop of Rome. With gratitude for the legacy of Pope Francis, we move forward with confidence, trusting the Holy Spirit to lead us through this Jubilee pilgrimage of hope. I ask all the faithful to join me in praying for Pope Leo XIV as he undertakes this God given mission.

May God bless him, and may his Servant leadership bring abundant grace to the Church and the world.

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