

# Meet POPE LEO XIV!

Born: **September 14, 1955**

Ordained Priest: **June 19, 1982**

Appointed Cardinal by Pope Francis:  
**September 30, 2023**

Elected Pope: **May 8, 2025**

## A Brief Introduction

On May 8, 2025, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost, O.S.A., was elected the 267th pope, taking the name Pope Leo XIV.

Pope Leo was born September 14, 1955, in Chicago, Illinois. Before his election as pope, Cardinal Robert Francis Prevost served for over two decades in Peru. In 2014, Pope Francis appointed Cardinal Prevost as Apostolic Administrator of Callao. As a member of the Order of Saint Augustine (O.S.A.), he brings to the papacy decades of experience in missionary service, especially among the poor, marginalized, and migrants. He has been an advocate for ecclesial reform and deeper dialogue within the global Church.

He served as Prior General of the Augustinians from 2001 to 2013. Before becoming a bishop, he worked in Peru as a seminary professor, judicial vicar, parish pastor, and diocesan official. He was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Francis on September 30, 2023. His prior roles include serving as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops from 2023 to 2025, where he played a key role in shaping episcopal leadership worldwide.



## Pope Leo's First Steps as Pontiff: What to Expect from the Early Days of His Papacy

### His First Words: **The *Urbi et Orbi* Blessing**

Pope Leo XIV delivered his first address from St. Peter's Basilica, known as the *Urbi et Orbi* ("to the city and to the world") blessing. The first words of this short, prayerful message, which he gave from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica following the "*Habemus Papam!*" announcement, were "Peace be with all of you!" He continued by saying, "The world needs Christ's light. Humanity needs him to be the bridge so that God and his love can reach us."

These remarks set a tone of hope, reconciliation, and a focus on Christ as the source of unity and peace for humanity. Pope Leo XIV's initial address was resonant, highlighting both a blessing for all and the essential role of faith in bridging divisions and bringing God's love to the world.

### His First Public Mass: **The Inauguration**

Within a week, and likely on Sunday, Pope Leo XIV will celebrate the Mass of Inauguration in St. Peter's Square, marking the formal start of his ministry. This Liturgy, attended by thousands, includes the bestowal of the Fisherman's Ring and pallium (symbols of papal authority). A private Mass with the cardinals in the Sistine Chapel often precedes it.