

6 Fun Facts ABOUT POPE LEO XIV

Meet Pope Leo XIV — the first American-born pope and a leader whose life has taken him from Chicago to missionary service in Peru and, ultimately, the Vatican.

FUN FACT

1

His Childhood nickname was “Robbie”.

Born Robert Francis Prevost, Pope Leo XIV grew up in Dolton, a suburb of Chicago. As a child, his neighborhood friends knew him simply as “Robbie.”

2

As a kid, he played Mass using candy.

His interest in the priesthood began early. As a child, he would pretend to celebrate Mass, using pieces of candy to represent the Eucharist.

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3

He was a street hockey fan.

Long before becoming pope, young Robert Prevost enjoyed playing street hockey with friends in his Chicago-area neighborhood.

4

He has a degree in mathematics.

Pope Leo XIV graduated from Villanova University in 1977 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. He also studied philosophy before beginning his formal religious formation.

FUN FACT

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5

He speaks five languages fluently.

Pope Leo XIV is fluent in English, Italian, Spanish, French, and Portuguese. He can also read Latin and German — and is working to become more conversational in German.

6

He made history twice.

Elected on May 8, 2025, Pope Leo XIV became the first pope born in the United States. He is also the first pope elected from the Order of Saint Augustine.

FUN FACT



A POPE WITH A GLOBAL STORY

Pope Leo XIV’s life reflects a unique combination of faith, education, missionary work, and international experience.

For more information about Pope Leo XIV, scan the QR code to read our article, *Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Pope Leo XIV*.



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