



Diocese of Springfield
Office of the Bishop

April 14, 2026

My dear brothers and sisters,

It has always been the mission of our Church to preach unceasingly the Gospel, regardless of its popularity or how it might challenge some to re-think their ways. This is not "political" speech or action, rather it is our baptismal mandate, the very fabric of our spiritual being.

Just as Christ was about to ascend into heaven, he gave his disciples this binding commission, to preach and live out the Gospel, bringing it to all the ends of the earth.

This is now the primary task of our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV. As the successor of St. Peter, he must always speak truth to power no matter the discomfort it may cause some, those who perhaps only seek validation through their relationship with God.

Pope Leo XIV has undertaken, with great fidelity to Church teaching, this papal mission, to bring the Good News to all corners of the world, always in harmony with our Catholic faith, our spiritual foundation.

May Pope Leo XIV remain in our fervent prayers as he acts without fear and speaks without reservation, bringing through his papal travels and outreach the Good News to all he encounters.

In Christ,

Bishop William D. Byrne

Bishop of Springfield