



DIOCESE OF GRAND RAPIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Diocese of Grand Rapids Office of Communications issues the following statement from Most Reverend David J. Walkowiak, bishop of Grand Rapids, following the news that Pope Leo XIV has been diagnosed with lung adenocarcinoma:

We thank God that our Holy Father's surgery was successful yesterday and that he seems to be recovering well. I wish to thank the faithful and all people of good will who have kept Pope Leo in prayer these past few days. As we continue to receive updates from the Holy See regarding his condition, I encourage you to keep Pope Leo XIV in prayer, especially for his peace and for a return to full health.

We also pray in a special way for everyone who is battling cancer and their loved ones. May Pope Leo's struggle with this illness be an inspiration to remain united to the Lord in difficult times by placing our trust in Him amid suffering.

We ask for the intercession of Saint Peregrine, patron saint of cancer patients, and Our Lady of Lourdes as we pray for Pope Leo XIV and all those afflicted by cancer.

The Diocese of Grand Rapids serves more than 175,114 Catholics, 75 parishes and 31 schools in an 11-county area of West Michigan. For additional information, visit our website grdiocese.org or connect with the diocese on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/DioceseofGrandRapids) (Diocese of Grand Rapids), [@GRDiocese](https://www.instagram.com/GRDiocese) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/@GRdiocese) (@GRdiocese)

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