



**MAY THE GOD OF HOPE
FILL YOU ALL
WITH JOY AND PEACE**
Friar Bob Hutmacher, ofm

I was in the middle of a 90-minute medical test at Northwestern Memorial when I peeked at my phone and happened to catch the moment on a certain balcony when the massive curtains opened and I heard those words that echoed across the world: “Habemus Papam”. I asked the medical technician to watch with me just as Cardinal Dominique Mamberti announced the name Robertus Franciscus Prevost....and the world took on a newness that was exhilarating. He chose the name Leo, reminiscent of Leo XIII who ‘founded’ Catholic social teaching. As the day progressed with hours of media coverage, the background of our new Shepherd brought an exciting flavor to the election of our new Pope most could never, ever had predicted. Robert Prevost was an Augustinian friar at Catholic Theological Union in Hyde Park when I was in my final two years of study there before ordination to priesthood in 1979! And I was not alone in disbelief – millions on Mother Earth rejoiced that the Holy Spirit guided the Conclave to choose a Pope from the United States, a Pope from Chicago! Moment of truth: we were not classmates, nor good friends. But it's exciting to have a Shepherd with such a background that includes broad cultural experiences, intellectual pursuits and a reputation for being a holy, forthright man of compassion. From what I've read of his writings, Pope Leo XIV is not afraid to speak the truth either!

Don't be fooled by the media blitz about his Chicago upbringing, fun as it all is; this man is far more than a Sox fan. He holds graduate degrees in Ministry and Canon Law, spent twenty years in Peru as a humble priest and bishop who lived with and for the poor. He was Prior General of the Augustinian Order and Prefect of the Vatican's Dicastery for Bishops. His vast pastoral and ecclesial background will allow Leo XIV to reach many of the 1.4 billion Roman Catholics and untold others throughout the world. Viatorian Fr. Mark Francis, former president of Catholic Theological Union and former General Superior of the Viatorians wrote about Pope Leo in the May 10 issue of Time Magazine; they were classmates at CTU and superiors of major religious orders for 12 years together in Rome. Mark wrote that Pope Leo XIV was shaped by his experience of being Catholic in Dolton, IL, an area often on the “front lines of fighting racial injustice. He studied at our CTU in Hyde Park, which was inspired and shaped by the last document of the Second Vatican Council, *Gaudium et Spes [the Constitution on the Church in the Modern World]* which stated: **“The joys and hopes, the griefs and the anxieties of the people of this age, especially those who are poor or in any way afflicted, these are the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the followers of Christ.”** I hope you see the significance of that quote. It is the poor and afflicted people of our world that the Church must hold in highest priority for one simple reason: it was among “just such as these” that Jesus focused on in his preaching and healing. He refused political power and fame, national glory or personal financial gain. He gave **hope** and new life to the poor, the sick, the unwanted and was resolute in doing the will of God.

In every single Eucharist there's a brief interjection between the Lord's prayer and its conclusion called the embolism, [from the Greek *emballein*, *to be put between*]. It's a minor liturgical accretion, centuries old, to express our future: "as we await the **blessed hope** and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ." That "**blessed hope**" is, of course, heaven and so this one phrase reveals how every time we gather for Eucharist, we set our course in life toward eternal glory with our God. That is **hope**. And how do we build **hope** in ourselves and others?

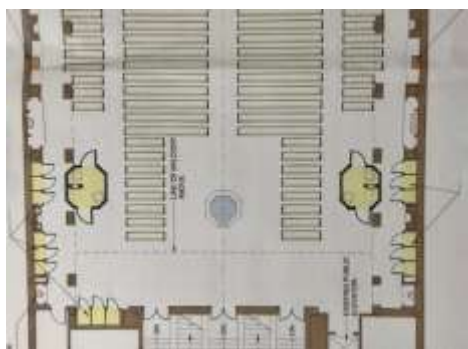
A definition of **hope** from Merriam-Webster: *to cherish a desire with anticipation or to want something to happen or be true*. I **hope** it doesn't rain on our parade...I sure **hope** you pass that exam today... I **hope** you have a nice birthday...I **hope** we're having a boy this time...I **hope** this operation fixes my knee...I **hope** she gets voted out of office...I sure **hope** we win this playoff game...I **hope** this guy doesn't read his whole homily again... Gosh, I **hope** this pope is like Pope Francis. Yes, we **hope** for many, many different things, don't we?

The dictionary definition can help shape what **hope** is, but when it comes to our spiritual selves ~ just WHAT do we **hope** for? Do we expect God to fulfill our own desires for divine righting of wrongs in the world? Do I passively just expect my relationship with Christ to feed and house and protect the "poor or in any way afflicted"? Do I believe that going to Mass once in a while fulfills my **hope** and gets me a ticket into Paradise? What do we **hope** for in our individual and communal desires for present and future Church?

Those who hope in the Lord
Will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like
eagles;

They will run and not grow
weary.

They will walk and not be faint. (Isaiah 40:31)



Over twenty years I've **hoped** for new Reconciliation Rooms in St. Peter's Church so people can experience God's forgiveness in a space that is prayerful, accessible, beautiful and worthy of this Sacrament. This summer St. Peter's celebrates 150 years of Franciscan presence and service at both the old Clark and Polk church and our present home at 110 West Madison. A massive part of our history is a well-deserved reputation that we friars are compassionate and understanding confessors. People come from all over the Chicago area and the world, in fact, to experience this beloved Sacrament with us. In May our entire Provincial Council spent a week here, both in their own meetings and with the friars of Chicago. During that week we received permission to proceed with the project of creating these rooms. Remember when I wrote about this last year and showed you the architect's drawings? We need procedural clarifications and then we'll begin in earnest to provide something new that will offer sinners the knowledge of God's forgiveness and **HOPE** for a new life! We are blessed to have more than 2/3 of the funds needed and accept even more help.



1875 – 2025

We celebrate 150 years of Franciscan Presence here at St. Peter's Church, along with the 800th Anniversary of the *Canticle of the Creatures* by St. Francis, all with extraordinary events from now until October 4. Watch for details and signs in the coming days. Join in our gratitude for the blessings God has bestowed on us all these years.

Please join us for the following celebrations.

Thursday, July 17, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. St. Peter's Annual Gala

The Union League Club on Jackson Avenue.

Tickets on sale now in the lobby, the front office or online at stpetersloop.org

Wednesday Noontime Organ Concerts 12:15 – 1:00 p.m.

June 25, July 9, July 23, August 6 and August 20

Gifted area organists who are connected to St. Peter's perform

Sunday, July 27, 11:00 Solemn Eucharist with Bishop Robert Lombardo, CFR

We celebrate festively to recall the day the first Franciscan Friars came to serve at St. Peter's Church, then at Clark & Polk Streets.

FRANCISCAN FESTIVAL 2025

Monday, September 29, 12:15 p.m. – St. Clare Auditorium

Story telling about some of the many friars who've served at St. Peter's

Tuesday, September 30, 12:15 p.m. – St. Clare Auditorium

The Canticle of Creatures of St. Francis – Gilberto Cavazos-González, OFM, STD

Wednesday, October 1, 12:15 p.m. – St. Clare Auditorium

Concert: *A Serenade by Strings* by artists on guitar, the oud and other surprises

Thursday, October 2, 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. – St. Clare Auditorium

Treasures of St. Peter's – Franciscan beauty in our liturgical vessels and sacred art

Friday, October 3, 5:00 p.m. – in church

Transitus of St. Francis – we remember his death in musical prayer and ritual

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4

5:00 p.m. SOLEMN EUCHARIST OF THE SOLEMNITY OF FRANCIS

Most Reverend Lawrence Hayes, OFM, Minister Provincial of the Franciscan Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe, presiding

7:00 p.m. ANNIVERSARY CONCERT OF CREATION, St. Peter's Church

A grande finale to our celebration with soloists, large chorus and orchestra! The concert includes the U.S. premiere of *The Canticle of Creatures* by Friar Robert Hutmacher, ofm.

Hope. We friars have sought this virtue for over 800 years in the spirit of Francis. And in our presence at St. Peter's in Chicago, we **hope** every day. Trust me! We **hope** that God keep us calm as we strive to serve God, his Son and all God's People. We **hope** that God bless YOU for your constant care and support. As St. Paul wrote to the Romans: "*We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.* (5:3-4) 150 years is a milestone, so stay with us because together with you, we can love and serve another 150! May God embrace you in peace and **hope**!" *Fr. Bob Hutmacher, ofm*