

POPE LEO XIV

FIRST AMERICAN-BORN POPE



Sunday Reflection With Fr. Rafal

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Joseph Parish,
HABEMUS PAPAM! We have a new Pope! American Pope!!

The election of **Robert Francis Prevost**, who chose the name **Leo XIV**, as the 267th leader of the Roman Catholic Church marks two historic facts. Leo is the first-ever U.S.-born pope to lead the church and the first pope from the Augustinian order.

On Thursday, May 8 the new pope appeared on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica and delivered a short speech. His opening words were **"Peace be with all of you!"**

The 69-year-old pontiff added that he wanted his message of peace to "enter your hearts, reach your families and all people, wherever they are." During his address, he spoke in Italian, Spanish and Latin.

The new pope was born in Chicago in 1955. His father is of French and Italian descent, while his mother is of Spanish descent.

Leo studied at the Minor Seminary of the Augustinian Fathers. He went on to attend Villanova University in Pennsylvania, where he received a degree in mathematics. He later pursued his theological education at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

Although the new pontiff is American, one of the most significant chapters of his ministry took place in Peru. Prevost served there for roughly two decades. He was appointed as Bishop of Chiclayo in 2014, promoted to archbishop in 2023, and then cardinal in the following year. Over the course of his career, he has also taught canon law, patristics, and moral law.

Let us pray for our new Pope Leo XIV as he will be leading us to Christ in our Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church:

Lord, source of eternal life and truth, give to your shepherd a spirit of courage and right judgment, a spirit of knowledge and love. By governing with fidelity those entrusted to his care, may he, as successor to the Apostle Peter and Vicar of Christ, build your Church into a sacrament of unity, love, and peace for all the world. Amen.

Have a Blessed 5th Sunday of Easter 2025!

Fr. Rafal Ligenza.

Pastor — St. Joseph Catholic Church