

Birth Name: Robert Francis Prevost

Date of Birth: September 14, 1955

Country of Origin: United States

Papal Name Chosen: Pope Leo XIV

Elected as the 267th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church: May 8, 2025

First Words as Pope: *"Peace be with all of you!"* — the first words of Pope Leo XIV. The conclave has elected Robert Francis Cardinal Prevost as the 267th Bishop of Rome. The new pope was announced to the waiting crowds by Cardinal Protodeacon Dominique Mamberti. (*Vatican News*)

Background

Before his election to the papacy, Pope Leo XIV served as Prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops in the Roman Curia. A member of the Order of St. Augustine, he spent many years in missionary service, particularly in Latin America. His pastoral approach and deep commitment to evangelization have remained at the heart of his vocation.

"I still consider myself a missionary," he told *Vatican News*. "My vocation, like that of every Christian, is to be a missionary, to proclaim the Gospel wherever one is."

During a talk at St. Jude Parish in Chicago in August, the then-cardinal reflected on his appointment by Pope Francis, stating:

"He did not want someone from the Roman Curia to take on this role. He wanted a missionary; he wanted someone from outside; he wanted someone who would come in with a different perspective."
— *Catholic Review*

Pastoral vision

Pope Leo XIV is widely known for his emphasis on humility, closeness to the faithful, and servant leadership. Reflecting on the role of bishops, he shared in an interview:

"The bishop is not supposed to be a little prince sitting in his kingdom," but is "called authentically to be humble, to be close to the people he serves, to walk with them, to suffer with them."
— *The New York Times*

His pontificate is expected to be marked by a continued focus on missionary discipleship, pastoral care, and a Church that journeys with the people of God.